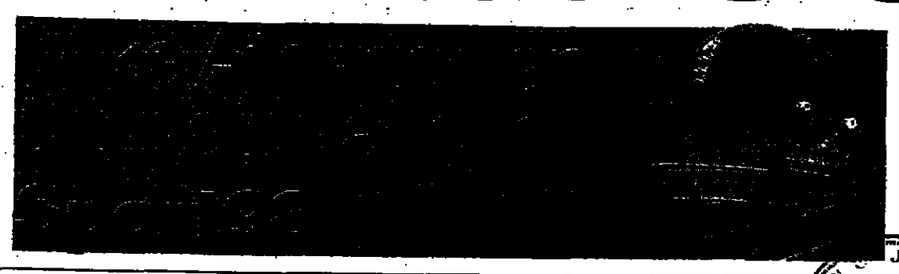
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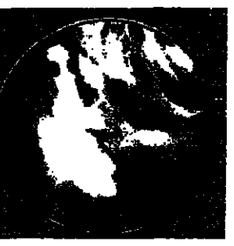
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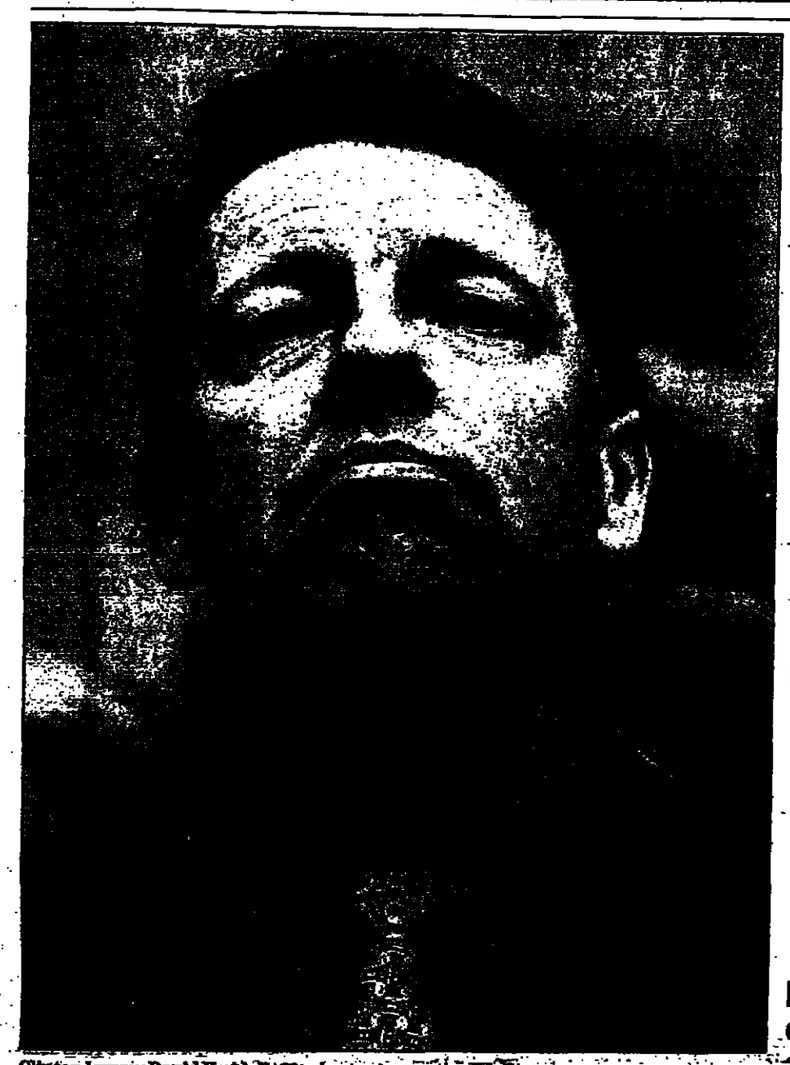
The Guardian EUROPE

Up to the minute Ashes



Uncut: confessions of a censor





Clinton lawyer David Kendall: 30 minutes to question Mr Starr PHOTOGRAPHS: GARY HERSHORN

Starr: The final gamble to trap Clinton

Martin Kettle in **Washington** on the bitter battle unfolding at an historic impeachment hearing



Kenneth Starr testifying yesterday. He alleged President Clinton 'misused his power'

KENNETH Starr, the investigator who brought America to the third presidential impeachment proceedings in its history, last night fought to defend his allegations against Bill Clinton before a bitterly divided congressional committee in Washington.

As Republicans and Democrats traded bad-tempered political insults, Mr Starr, the independent counsel, charged that Mr Clinton "misused his authority and power" and broke the law by lying about his affair with the former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Protesting his faith in "the sanctity — yes — the sanctity of the judicial process", Mr Starr told the House of Representatives judiciary committee in a 132-minute address that Mr Clinton engaged in "an unlawful effort to thwart the judicial process".

"The evidence suggests that the president repeatedly used the machinery and the powers of his office to conceal his relationship with Monica Lewinsky from the American people, from the judicial process in the Jones case, and from the grand jury."

The voters in this month's mid-term elections might have made Mr Clinton's eventual impeachment politically unlikely, but Mr Starr defended the legal propriety of his controversial inquiry without a hint of apology during a calm but dramatic presentation to the committee.

"It was our duty to be meticulous, to be careful. We were. And in the process we uncovered substantial and credible evidence of serious legal wrongdoing by the president," he told the committee.

In a packed room on Capitol Hill and with nine national American television networks relaying every word to the world outside, the bespectacled Mr Starr sat quietly as the political battle raged around him at the start of the historic session.

The senior Democrat on the impeachment committee, Congressman John Conyers, accused Mr Starr of being "a federally paid sex policeman spending millions of dollars to trap an unfaithful spouse".

"The hearing today is not a trial, nor is it White House versus Ken Starr, or Republican versus Democrat," inquiry chairman Henry Hyde retorted. "Rather, the hearing today is another step in our attempt to carry out our constitutional duty."

When Mr Starr was finally called to speak, he stood and took the oath before detailing in measured tones for more than two hours why he thought that Mr Clinton should be the first president to be voted out of office by the Congress.

"The president had taken an oath to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," Mr Starr said. "By making false statements under oath, the president, the chief executive of our nation, failed to adhere to that oath and to his presidential oath to faithfully execute the laws."

With Mr Clinton on a visit to Japan, his lawyers sat at one side of the committee chamber taking notes before getting their chance to confront their old adversary in public for the first time. Mr Starr was due to face 30 minutes of questioning from David Kendall, the president's private lawyer, later in the day. A Democratic move to extend Mr Kendall's questioning from 30 to 120 minutes was defeated by 21-16 votes at the start of the session.

As Mr Starr finished his testimony, the White House's recently appointed chief anti-impeachment strategist, Greg Craig, denounced the process as "profoundly unfair to the president".

"There was nothing new in Mr Starr's two-hour presentation," Mr Craig said. "He offered no new evidence, no new information and no new explanations of his tactics."

Mr Starr did announce for the first time yesterday, however, that he had cleared Mr Clinton of any possible charges arising from his investigations into the firing of staff at the White House travel office and into the misuse of FBI files.

In his testimony, which ranged widely across the Whitewater, Travelgate and Filegate issues, as well as the Lewinsky question, Mr Starr strongly defended his much criticised investigation, and acknowledged the pressures.

The Lewinsky investigation "caused all of us considerable dismay", he said.

"On at least six different occasions the president had to make a decision," Mr Starr said. "He could choose truth or he could choose deception. On all six occasions, the president chose deception."

Impeachment hearing, page 9

Hague rebuffs truce in battle over PR lists

Michael White
Political Editor

THE Government is not prepared to risk re-introducing its Euro-elections bill when the new session of Parliament starts next week unless it gets copper-bottomed guarantees from the Conservatives, it emerged last night.

William Hague is refusing to give any support unless Labour gives way on the so-called closed list of candidates. It is becoming a crucial test of will for both leaders.

Without assurances, ministers will either have to outmanoeuvre the Lords by cunning use of parliamentary rules or watch as the peers filibuster the bill in a rehearsal of what diehards plan to do to the bill to abolish their inherited voting rights.

Armed with the 87-year-old powers of the Parliament Acts which now limit Lords delaying tactics to one year, the Government is bound to win in the end — on Europe and, by late 2000, on Lords reform as well. But the price could be very high, wrecking the Government's legislative plans if Mr Hague should dig in.

As the 19 month session closed in acrimony last night, Mr Hague startled some Tory peers by saying he would "not co-operate or acquiesce in any way" with Labour demands for assurances that the Opposition would not block the European Parliamentary Elections Bill again by insisting — as it has five times — on an "open list" ballot paper. Under an open list, voters chose between candidates, and under a closed list, between parties.

That seemed to contradict the tone adopted by Viscount Cranborne, Tory Leader of the Lords. Labour and Lib Dem peers said Lord Cranborne had been overruled by "the boys in the Commons" in the search for a winning issue.

Tony Blair and cabinet colleagues warned that, if they could not get the bill by mid-January, it would be too late to do the preparatory work to introduce the regional form of proportional representation for the Euro-elections on June 9. First-past-the-post would stay in place.

"If they play that game we have got to go back to the old system. They can use the Tory majority they have got in the House of Lords to scupper us and that is what they have done," Mr Blair said.

When the bill ran out of time on Wednesday night after a protracted game of ping pong between Lords and Commons, both sides yesterday accused each other of being dishonest and divided. Each said the ball is now in the other's court.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, who has staked political capital on winning PR from Mr Blair, joined Labour in attacking the "abuse" of hereditary voting powers.

Mr Hague insisted that Labour's choice of the closed list system was "wrong and undemocratic". "That has never been the way we have done things in this country," he said.

A parliamentary poker game under bizarre rules is now unavoidable. The Parliament Acts allow Labour to re-introduce the same bill a year after it was given its initial Commons second reading, effectively on November 26. But it can become law only when the Lords throw it out or when impasse over amendments is reached and the session ends.

Politics, page 7; Decca Aitkenhead, page 12; Leader comment, page 13

After 31 years, News At Ten heads for the last fade-out

Janine Gibson
Media Correspondent

ITV executives rejoiced last night as they were given the go-ahead to axe News at Ten, despite overwhelming political and public opposition.

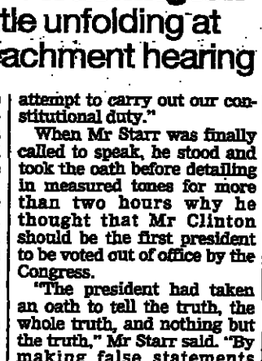
The Independent Television Commission, the industry's regulator, sanctioned the creation of two replacement news bulletins at 6.30pm and 11pm yesterday after a hard-fought debate.

The ITC chairman, Sir Robin Biggam, is said to have wanted a unanimous decision, but could only achieve a 7–3 majority among the 10 members of the ITC council.

No date has been set for the change-over, but it is expected to be early next year. ITV has had a 10pm news bulletin for 31 years.

In giving "qualified approval" to ITV's plans, the ITC laid down four conditions covering the range and quality of programmes to fill the new slots.

Significantly, the ITC has insisted on a regular "headline service" to be placed in a commercial break near to 10pm. This was seen by industry insiders to be a conciliatory gesture to the politicians who protested against the move, arguing that 10pm is the best time to report late-breaking political stories.



Both the Prime Minister and the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, had expressed personal opposition to the move, and the Commons select committee issued a damning report on the proposed changes. However, the ITC said that though the politicians had "a legitimate concern", ITV deserved a chance to put its proposals to the test.

A Downing Street spokesman said: "The Prime Minister's reaction is that it is a decision for the ITC. He has made clear that his personal view was to keep it at 10 o'clock."

But other politicians reacted with anger. Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the Commons select committee on culture, media and sport, said: "We have passed a new milestone in the dumbing down of Britain."

The former prime minister, John Major, said it was a grave mistake which would lead to a downgrading of ITV's evening schedules.

Independent MP and former BBC correspondent Martin Bell said: "It means news is being marginalised, whatever they say. Nothing matters but money and ratings."

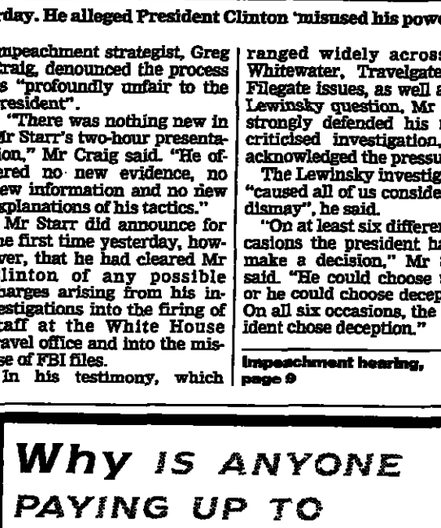
The ITC received an exceptional response from viewers during its public consultation period. Of the 1,806 letters received by the commission, 82 per cent were against the move.

Independent research by MORI and the Barb television ratings research panel also found a lack of support. The

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UK news
International
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secretly
transferred to Boris
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9 770261 307354

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Tobacco will kill 1 in 3 Chinese men

Sarah Boseley on studies which show the full and 'catastrophic' impact of cigarettes on the world's largest developing nation

A THIRD of all the young men in China will eventually die of smoking-related diseases, scientists said yesterday, describing what they called the catastrophic results of an epidemic sweeping the country.

The results of the biggest ever study of the effects of tobacco, by British, Chinese and American scientists, suggest that cigarettes will kill 100 million Chinese men now aged under 29. Half of them will die in middle-age.

The results of two studies, one looking at 1 million deaths that have already occurred and the other at future trends, were released yesterday in Beijing and London and published in the British Medical Journal.

This weekend, the director general of the World Health Organisation, Gro Harlem Brundtland, will discuss the figures with the Chinese government.

But to reverse the slide into tobacco-related death and disease, a huge amount of public education will be needed. A recent study showed that two thirds of the Chinese thought cigarettes caused no harm or very little. The chances of changing attitudes fast are not good. "It will take the Chinese government some years before the figures become as real to them as they are to the British government," said Richard Peto, the Oxford University epidemiologist who was one of the study authors.

China in the 1990s is at the same stage in its tobacco epidemic as the United States in the 1950s and appears to be following the same pattern. Average daily consumption in the US rose from one in 1910 to four in 1930 to 10 in 1950, where it stabilised for 30 years, until the dangers started to be fully appreciated.

Just as is now predicted for China, deaths from smoking-related diseases went up from 12 per cent in the 1950s to 33 per cent in the 1990s.

This "catastrophic epidemic" was home-grown in its beginnings, Professor Peto said. "Mao Zedong's slogan was 'food, shelter and cigarettes for everybody'." Western tobacco companies are trying hard to get into the market, but they have only 10 per cent at the moment.

Alan Lopez, acting chief of the WHO's epidemiology and burden of disease unit, said a law against advertising cigarettes on radio or television was not always strictly observed. "Formula One has asked for special permission," he said, "and the government said OK. As of next March, all the television screens will be filled with cigarette packaging running around race tracks."

Dr Lopez said 1 million Chinese a year were expected to die by 2005, 2 million a year by 2025 and 3 million a year by 2050 if people continued to smoke as they were now.

The damage done is worst in those who start young, and two thirds of Chinese men begin smoking under the age of 25. Dr Lopez said cessation rates in the country were extremely low. Preventing children from starting was not enough, because it would not stop the deaths of those smoking now.

The one bright spot, Prof Peto said, was that smoking among women appeared to have decreased. Many were dying as a result of 10 per cent of women taking it up in 1950, but now only 1 per cent of women became smokers.

Researchers from the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine, the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Oxford University and Cornell University in the US carried out the study, which is unique in focusing on the effect of tobacco on an entire developing nation. Interviews with the families of 1 million people who died were carried out by more than 500 fieldworkers in 24 major cities and 74 rural counties.

The study sought out a quarter of a million men over the age of 40, who were interviewed and medically tested and who will be monitored for decades, tracing the development of the epidemic.

Scientists were surprised to find that the diseases induced by tobacco were not exactly the same as those that kill in Britain, where lung cancer and heart attacks are most common. Only 15 per cent died of lung cancer in China, while 45 per cent died from chronic lung disease and 5 to 8 per cent of each of oesophageal cancer, stomach cancer, liver cancer, stroke, heart disease and tuberculosis. It appears that smoking in China increases those diseases which are already common.

Tessa Jowell, the Minister for Public Health, said the figures "graphically illustrate the disastrous consequences of smoking".

Clive Bates, of Action on Smoking and Health, accused British American Tobacco of trying to keep the Chinese in ignorance of the risks of smoking. The job description for a medical post in China that BAT sought to fill two years ago stated that responsibilities included "portraying the company view on smoking and health to key audiences in China".



Card players in Beijing, gambling with cigarettes, pay no heed to a smoking restriction PHOTOGRAPH: CHIEN-MIN CHUNG

Western companies are trying hard to get into the market, but have only 10 per cent. The damage done is worst in those who start young, and two thirds of Chinese men begin at under 25



Gro Harlem Brundtland: will speak for the WHO



Tessa Jowell: 'figures show the disastrous consequences'

The count

Chinese cigarette consumption: 1950s, 100 billion; 1980, 500 billion; Now, 1,800 billion

Consumption per man: 1952, 1; 1972, 4; 1992, 10

Starting age: Two thirds of Chinese men start smoking before age 25

Tobacco-related deaths in 1990: 600,000 (of whom 300,000 were ages 35-69); 12 per cent of all male deaths; 3 per cent of all female deaths.

Expected deaths per year from tobacco: 800,000 in 2000; 1 million in 2010; 2 million in 2025; 3 million in 2050.

Discovery of Plath's forgotten teenage poems dismays friends

Rory Carroll

THE literary world was stunned last night after the discovery of three forgotten Sylvia Plath poems revealed both sexual disgust and technical immaturity, providing an embarrassing footnote to her legacy as one of the century's greatest poets.

According to her friends, the untitled works were so bad they should never have seen the light of day, despite their potential insights into her troubled marriage to the late Poet Laureate, Ted Hughes.

They are thought to have been composed in the late 1940s, when Plath was a teenager in Massachusetts.

The discovery was made by Rick Gekoski, a London-based book dealer, on a shelf in a New York bookshop last month.

The six-page pamphlet was one of a batch of 100 published in Paris in 1975. The copy he found included the original manuscript of the second of the three poems, handwritten on school exercise paper.

Trois Poèmes Inédits, published by J J Dufour, sank without trace. It does not appear on any bibliography and was missed by scholars compiling Plath collections, said Mr Gekoski.

He suspects most of the batch was pulped after flopping with a French public unimpressed by Mr Dufour's introduction, hailing their documentary value.

Mr Gekoski, who owns R A Gekoski Rare Books and Manuscripts in Bloomsbury, central London, has sold the pamphlet for £5,750 to a private buyer, who will keep it in Britain.

A dealer in Plath manuscripts for 15 years, he said the handwriting and style, though adolescent, was unmistakably that of the woman who went on to worldwide acclaim before committing suicide in 1963, aged 31.

He said of the poem shown on the right: "I don't think anyone would rate it as a great poem, but it has a raw power. It's at a pitch and intensity in its treatment of sexuality that I haven't seen in any of her other poems. Anyone who wrote this was capable of great poetry."

However, friends of Plath were horrified that the visceral treatment of sex and reproduction — such as dissolving into a "warm perfumed puddle" and "soft brown feces hardening on the diapers" — would damage her reputation.

David Sexton, a literary critic, said he was sure Ted Hughes would have wanted the poem suppressed.

Al Alvarez, the poet and author who helped launch Plath's career, said: "I can see why she would never have dreamed of publishing it. It's just adolescent poetry and nothing like as good as other poets' juvenilia.

"What is interesting about it is that at this early point she was as untalented as any other adolescent poet. It just shows that from tiny acorns mighty oaks grow. She went on to become one of the greatest writers of this century so she'd be appalled that this has been published."

Jacqueline Rose, author of The Haunting of Sylvia Plath, said she had never heard of the works. "I can't wait to read it but I won't comment until then."

Blake Morrison, the poet, said: "It's not one of her maturer works, but there are things about it that are Plath-like, the physicality of it, the femaleness of it. Going from seduction to diapers — that's something like Plath, but it doesn't have the coherence of her later works."

The publishers Faber and Faber, representatives of Plath's estate, said it was unaware of the poems but would examine them for copyright.

Untitled

by Sylvia Plath

I lean outward to the sky
And should tumble in if I
Were not held here cleverly
By the threads of my identity
The sweet sickish female odor
Behind the dim blinds of a scented
Boudoir — the pale orange light
Slow, careful grace — the seduction
The obsession and the melting
watery desire revolve in montly (sic) cycles
Painted smiles and languid lips
Smoky eyes, and white flesh. What is
There but fatty tissue, milk from lymph,
and fat on breast and thigh, and then
inside, the twisted snake of ovaries,
The nerve-woven tissue of the uterus,
Receptive always, filling with the active
fluid of an opposing passion, and after
The moment, the hypnotic doze of
remembering always, and bending,
relaxing at the edges. Passive fruits of
a faded emotion fester and grow big
within the abdomen. And she dissolves
into a warm perfumed puddle. No music
as sweet as the shrill twittering of
The baby carriage, and the familiar
smell of soft brown feces hardening on
The diapers. How swift one transfers
one's ego to the child, and soothed
by hopes and vicarious dreams,
sinks willingly into the decay of the
body, the eventual passage of the
flesh to soil, and the disintegration
of the mind, the glands, that made one
all one was. So I laugh to see the
pure white gown, the golden band, when
I see the red lights of the cars, stopped
along the night road, and in the furtive
darkness — the lips, thin and pale, full and
devouring, meet and drink in the
blind fire. Cut the sex organs out

Hooligans face stay-at-home ban

Race abuse on terraces targeted in tough assault on football violence

Lucy Ward
Political Correspondent

KNOWN football hooligans will be barred from travelling to matches abroad even if they have never been convicted in the courts, under a crackdown on hooliganism to be unveiled next week by the Government.

The package of measures, which will include steps to curb racist abuse on the terraces, is being billed as the Government's toughest assault yet on hooliganism and other football-related offences.

The proposals, to be published next Friday in a consultation document, will target not only hooligans but touts selling tickets on the black market and fans chanting racist slogans.

Race abuse will be made a criminal offence, and steeper fines and tougher exclusion orders will be used to bar known troublemakers from matches in Britain.

The Home Office has drawn up the package in the wake of trouble in the summer at the World Cup.

English fans made headlines when they were involved in running battles with the French police and opposing supporters.

There have been calls for tougher action against soccer hooligans by the independent Football Task Force, headed by former Conservative minister David Mellor.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, announced this year that the Government intended to come down hard on troublemakers to safeguard the interests of ordinary fans.



Jack Straw: Home Office plans far-reaching reforms

European ministers met in Mr Straw's Blackburn constituency last February and examined ways to improve and co-ordinate international efforts to tackle football violence.

Home Office sources said last night that ministers believed Britain's current legislation was flawed and inadequate. They were promising "very tough, far-reaching reforms".

The Government is also keen to be seen doing everything possible to reduce trouble at football grounds to boost Britain's chances of holding a major tournament. Ministers hope to have the measures in place in time for the Euro 2000 tournament, being held in Belgium and Holland.

Although the Government is not expected to include the legislation in the Queen's Speech on Tuesday, ministers hope to use a private members' bill to push through the key changes.

Comic struggle against the odds

Review

Michael Billington

Little Malcolm And His Struggle Against The Eunuchs
Hampstead Theatre

WHO would you cast as a lonely paranoid fantasist who has difficulties with girls? The charismatic Ewan McGregor would not instantly leap to mind. But, although cast against type, he acquits himself extremely well in Denis Lawson's swift, sharply edited revival of David Halliwell's 1965 play.

The first thing to say is that Halliwell's work, though very much of its period, stands the test of time.

Its hero is a sacked Huddersfield art school student, Malcolm Scrawdyke, who plots fiendish revenge. He forms, with the help of three disciples, the Party of Dynamic Erection to stage a *putsch* against his former principal and to wage war on all intellectual eunuchs. But, after the beating up of a girl who vainly seeks to help him, he is exposed as little more than a sad bedsit Hitler.

The success of the play lies in its comic parody of any tin-pot fascist movement. First a leader emerges who attracts a group of tame acolytes. Then comes the expulsion of one of the party as a demonstration of personal power.

That is inevitably followed by an act of gratuitous violence which reveals the level of panic and fear.

Mixing elements from The Trial, Lord of the Flies and Billy Liar, Halliwell shows a lunatic game gradually acquiring a deadly reality.

The obvious weakness is that we see through Scrawdyke long before anyone else. He even, in the process of expelling the amiably harmless Nipple, accuses him of paranoia: delusions of grandeur, persecution mania, and surrender to fantasy.

He is all too clearly spelling out his own disease; and one wonders why none of his companions, however seduced by his rhetoric, gets the point.

But in Denis Lawson's production the piece cracks along as such pace that one's doubts are suspended. And, even if it is difficult to accept McGregor as a man reduced to virginal gaucheness in the presence of the girl who invades his patch, he gives a commanding performance.

With his scrawny beard and military greatcoat, he looks like a would-be student Napoleon. He also conveys the difference between the bullying public figure and the man who crumbles into nothingness in his own company. It is a performance that proves conclusively McGregor can hold a stage.

He is strongly supported. Sean Gilder as the fantasy novelist Nipple marvellously suggests the kind of toothily genial figure who lives in the world of his dreams. Nicolas Tennant is equally good as a nervous nonentity attracted by the charisma of the supposedly strong leader.

Joe Duttine and Lou Gish are spot on as, respectively, the seemingly loyal but ultimately treacherous sidekick and the commonsensical girl who sees through Malcolm's pretensions.

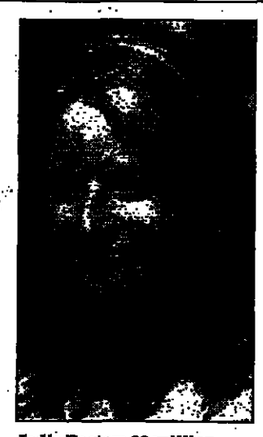
If the play makes for a good evening it is because it pins down the bedsit revolutions of much of 1960s student life and accurately shows how dreams of power spring from emotional deprivation.

This review appeared in some editions yesterday



Bhumibol Adulyadej: has been on throne for 52 years

To the Thai king, Jodie Foster is persona non grata, even if she is a big Hollywood player. Dan Glaister reports



Jodie Foster: £9 million fee for governess role

The king and ire: how Jodie proved a royal pain in Thailand

JODIE Foster is one of the richest, most powerful women in Hollywood, commanding multi-million dollar fees, able to make or break a movie as producer and star. Bhumibol Adulyadej, the current king of Thailand, is the world's longest reigning monarch, on the throne for 52 years.

Now the two have clashed, with Foster backing down. The remake of The King And I, for which she will receive £9 million, will be shot in Malaysia instead of Thailand.

"The simple truth is that time has run out," said a statement from 20th Century Fox, the studio behind the film.

Citing "excessive bureaucracy and political red-tape" the studio added, "This decision to move production was not made with any disrespect or outrage."

Nevertheless, the film-makers would have been aware that the film may have fallen foul of a law under which open criticism or disparagement of the royal family is punishable by seven years' imprisonment.

The film may also have proved uncomfortable viewing in Thai cinemas, where audiences stand for the national anthem before every screening.

The problems facing Anna And The King come in the wake of the troubled British adaptation of Alex Garland's cult novel The Beach, starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

The Beach has been put on hold indefinitely by local forestry officials concerned about plans to dig up and widen a beach on the island of Kho Phi Phi Leh.

Anna And The King, however, has run into cultural problems with the Thai Film Board, which has twice turned down scripts for the project.

"We will look at their final script if they want to try again," said Thipawadee Maenyart, a board official. "Our duty is to correct what is inaccurate."

The story of the Victorian governess hired to teach King Mongkut's 67 children is based on The English Governess At The Siamese Court, the memoirs of Anna Leonowens, written in 1870. Many Thais feel that Leonowens' memoirs portray Mongkut as a brutal buffoon rather than as a linguist and Buddhist scholar.

> On home ground Mongkut is revered as an enlightened monarch with a love of learning

Mongkut, also known as Rama IV, and the grandfather of the present king, is revered locally as an enlightened monarch with a love of learning who lived as a monk for more than 20 years before acceding to the throne.

It is felt that Leonowens exaggerated her memoirs to give herself a central place in the Siamese court and that in reality the king probably met her only once.

Though the 1946 film has been screened in Thailand, the 1956 film based on the Broadway musical, starring Yul Brynner, was banned. An animated version, based on the musical, with Miranda Richardson providing the voice of Anna, is due out in the spring.

Sulak Sivaraksa, a Thai social critic twice acquitted of insulting the monarchy, said that the film board had wasted a historic chance to get inside the project and attempt to influence its accuracy.

"A movie is a movie," he said. "Even stories you have read in history books are not all correct. You have to use your intelligence to judge if you will believe the writers."

The film's local co-ordinator, Suphinda Chakraphand, said: "The original was terrible for the image of the king — it was a mockery. In fact, he was a very learned, pious man who was also very scientifically minded and guided the country through many difficult problems at a time the British and French were threatening. The new film will be more serious."

Fox's statement insisted that this time the film makers wanted to portray Mongkut in a more historically accurate light. "The history depicted in Anna And The King was due for a fresher and more honest interpretation," said the studio's statement, adding that it still intends to make the film "with the care and respect it deserves."



King Mongkut . . . 'mocked' by the characterisations of Rex Harrison and Yul Brynner





Courtly reels

☐ **Anna And The King Of Siam (left)**

Made: 1946
Director: John Cromwell
Starring: Irene Dunne, Rex Harrison, Linda Darnell

Lavish and sumptuous, a light version of the true story.

☐ **The King And I (below left)**

Made: 1956
Director: Walter Lang
Starring: Deborah Kerr, Yul Brynner, Rita Moreno

Spectacular version of the Rogers and Hammerstein Broadway musical. Songs include Hello Young Lovers and Getting To Know You. Brynner wins an Oscar for his role.

☐ **Anna And The King**

Made: 1998/99
Director: Andy Tennant
Starring: Jodie Foster and Chow Yun-fat

No tunes in this "fresher and more honest interpretation" which will now be shot on location — in Malaysia.

Lawyers pore over Shayler decision

Richard Norton-Taylor

THE Government, still reeling from a French court's refusal to extradite the former MI5 officer David Shayler, was last night closely studying the judgment. The decision in effect says Britain's attempt to prosecute Mr Shayler for allegedly breaking the Official Secrets Act was politically motivated.

Whitehall lawyers are considering the full implications of the ruling, which says Mr Shayler's disclosures were also political in nature.

Though the Government is free to discuss whether an appeal should be lodged with the French supreme court, any decision will be up to the French prosecutors.

In her six-page judgment, published yesterday, Elisabeth Ponroy, the French presiding judge, says that under French law disclosing information about public state bodies — including, in this case, MI5 and MI6 — is political.

She based her judgment on a 1957 extradition treaty between Britain and France. A later agreement, signed in 1996, defines a "political" act more narrowly but it is not yet in force.

Under a 1927 French law a political offence is considered to be anything that damages or attacks "in some way" the functioning of public agencies. The judge also referred to the French penal code, which only outlaws the disclosure of defence secrets that affect the "fundamental interests" of the state.

Her dismissal of the British Government's case provoked particular dismay in Whitehall since it insisted Mr Shayler's revelations had already caused damage to national security. Whitehall sources had said Mr Shayler's disclosures could put lives at risk.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said yesterday: "This prosecution was in no way politically motivated." He was speaking on BBC Radio 4's Today programme. Asked whether the former MI5 officer would be jailed if he returned to Britain, he insisted that was a matter for "the prosecution authorities who are independent of the home secretary".

It is understood Mr Shayler is not at the moment planning to make further disclosures about what he learnt during his six-year career in MI5.

John Wadham, his lawyer and director of Liberty, the civil liberties group, yesterday repeated his call for the Government to discuss the case. Mr Shayler has repeatedly said he wants to return to Britain.

Tom King, the former Conservative cabinet minister and chairman of the parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee, said the body had recently asked for more powers to make MI5 and MI6 more accountable.

He criticised Mr Shayler and Richard Tomlinson, a former MI6 officer now living in Geneva, for going public "for money" and out of professional disappointment. One of the issues of the case was why "one or two people were ever recruited" to the services.

Mr Tomlinson, who was jailed for six months last year for breaking the Official Secrets Act, said today he hoped the ruling on Mr Shayler's case would speed up a reform of the act and lead to improved accountability of the intelligence services.

Speaking from Geneva on BBC television with his face blacked out, he also attacked as "outdated" a government injunction preventing the media from showing his face. "It's all part of the myth of prolonging the absolute imperative for total secrecy which they need to cover up their mismanagement," he said.

He added: "There would never be any need for people to go public if there was a proper internal complaints procedure and if MI5 and MI6 were properly accountable to the parliamentary committee."

Spookland silliness, page 12

Charles at war with Mirror over royal reporting



The story that provoked Prince Charles' anger and the Mirror's counter-claim about news management

Stuart Millar

THE Prince of Wales was last night locked in an extraordinary war of words with the editor of the Mirror newspaper over a front-page story which claimed St James's Palace had ordered a "news blackout" on a sports injury Prince Harry suffered at school.

In a letter written on behalf of Prince Charles, his private secretary, Stephen Lamport, asked the editor, Piers Morgan, to apologise publicly to Prince Harry for the way the article sensationalised a minor injury — the third "trivial and intrusive" story about him since he started at Eton two months ago. But in his reply last night, Mr Morgan accused St James's Palace of mounting a thinly disguised attempt to bully and censor the press.

The row has caused consternation among senior executives on rival papers, who decided not to run the story despite disagreeing with Prince Charles' insistence it was not in the public interest.

They believe that St James's Palace should take a more realistic approach to such "harmless" stories, allowing them to be published in less sensational terms.

But they also warn that in the absence of tough action, such as a complaint to the Press Complaints Commission, the Mirror will continue to print stories about the princes which may breach the undertaking made after the death of their mother.

Under the headline, Harry's had an accident but we're not allowed to tell you, the Mirror claimed yesterday that the public had a right to know if "an heir to the throne is involved in any accident, however small." Alongside a copy of a letter from Prince Charles' press officer, with some words blacked out, it said the attempt by St James's Palace to suppress the story was a "nonsensical farce."

In his letter to Mr Morgan, Mr Lamport wrote: "Despite your argument that the public has a right to know about the health of Prince Harry, I can assure you that there was absolutely no public interest whatever in the very minor bruising which Harry sustained — of the kind which can happen to children up and down the country on the playing field . . .

"Yet you sensationalise them to an extent which makes it very difficult for Prince Harry to have a normal life at his school.

"It seems to me that this breaches completely the spirit and substance of the undertaking made by all the country's newspapers to allow Prince William and Prince Harry the privacy they need in which to grow up."

Last night, Mr Morgan refused to back down. Denying his paper had carried any intrusive stories about the princes, he claimed Mr Lamport's letter was a further attempt by the palace to "have its cake and eat it".

He continued: "How do you think William and Harry felt about the material contained in Penny Junor's book about their mother — and fed to them by your own staff? The truth is that you wish to control everything the media writes about the people you work for."

Mr Morgan also claimed that most of the stories the palace complained about had been provided by sources close to the household of the Prince of Wales.

A spokeswoman for Prince Charles said last night that he was reviewing Mr Morgan's reponse before deciding what steps to take next.

After 31 years on air, News At Ten heads for the last fade-out

continued from page 1

ITC chief executive, Peter Rogers, summed up the commission's attitude to its research findings. "A regulator is not just there to make a head-count. It's very difficult to know whether you want something until it's there."

ITV chief executive Richard Eyre welcomed the decision. "The new schedule, which will begin next year, is an exciting overhaul of ITV's prime-time."

The channel has promised a range of new programmes to fill the gap left by News at Ten. More drama, comedy, sport and documentaries are planned.

ITV refused to be drawn yesterday on a date for the new-look schedule — but the changes are expected to take place early in 1999.

ITN, the production company behind News at Ten for 31 years, reacted with some sadness to the decision, although senior executives had long ago accepted the inevitability of the move. An ITN statement spoke of relief at the end of "a period of uncertainty for all concerned".

The BBC ruled out moving its own bulletin to fill the void at 10pm. Channel 5 would not comment on the possibility of moving its 7pm news programme.

Mr Eyre said: "The news will still feature Trevor McDonald, the 'bongs' and 'And Finally . . .' Our intention is to make it the premier news programme of the day."



Island tax havens face crackdown

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

BRITAIN'S offshore tax havens, which shelter more than £350 billion of assets belonging to the world's rich, are to face tough new measures against money laundering and tax evasion.

The move follows a 10 month government inquiry into the financial regulation of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man which found that the battle against financial crime was "not being convincingly won" by the crown dependencies.

But the investigation by a retired senior Treasury officer, Andrew Edwards, concludes that financial regulation in the islands is "generally good" and criticisms of secrecy, poor regulation and a reluctance to pursue criminals is "wide of the mark".

Now the Government is to press the island authorities to set up specialist financial crime units, to end the so-called "Sark Lark" which masks ownership by using locals as named directors, and to take a battery of other new measures including co-operating fully with other countries in the pursuit of money laundering and financial fraudsters.

But the Home Office inquiry has stopped short of recommending full public disclosure of company audited accounts, arguing that most are just "asset holding vehicles" rather than trading enterprises and many companies would move elsewhere if total disclosure was compulsory.

The Edwards report confirms the existence of offshore banking scams such as the "Sark Lark". It says that the 575 residents of the tiny island of Sark held around 15,000 company directorships, many of them in name only to mask the true beneficial owners or "shadow directors".

Three Sark residents were alone directors of between 1,600 and 3,000 companies each. These "Sark Lark" directors meant the companies can ensure secrecy and obtain tax-free status. The Edwards report says the practice is not confined to Sark but exists in all the crown dependencies.

The official report says the islands have been so successful in building their financial services sector in the last 20 years that they are now in the top division of world finance centres attracting investment from around the world.

Some 90,000 companies are incorporated in the islands, more than half of which enjoy tax-exempt status, and many more "non-resident" firms are run from these offshore tax havens.

Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man have proved so successful as offshore tax havens that the £350 billion held in island institutions represents about 5 per cent of the wealth held offshore by the world's "high net worth individuals". Living standards in Jersey and Guernsey are at least 20 per cent higher than in Britain.

The islands refused to join the European Union and the consequent large scale investment by many continental banks has led them to be dubbed "Offshore Europe".

But while Mr Edwards says that "I have no doubt that most of the islands' business is perfectly legal", he concludes that it is "hard to judge" the extent of disreputable business.

He says there is evidence that the islands are used as "staging posts" for money laundering operations, particularly of drug traffickers, and that there is "a significant amount" of tax fraud and evasion involving a "small minority of firms and practitioners".

Lord Williams, the Home Office minister, L will hold a series of meetings in January with the island authorities to draw up an action plan for putting the new measures into practice. They will include the establishment of financial crime units with an extra 20 professional staff for each island.

The island authorities welcomed the Edwards report, arguing that it was a vindication of the high standards of financial regulation already in operation.

Peter Ferbraches, of Guernsey's advisory and finance committee, said measures were already in place which ensured the "Sark Lark" was ending.

"The report is a wholesale vindication of the way the financial industry has been regulated over the past 20 years. We think the report is very positive," he said.

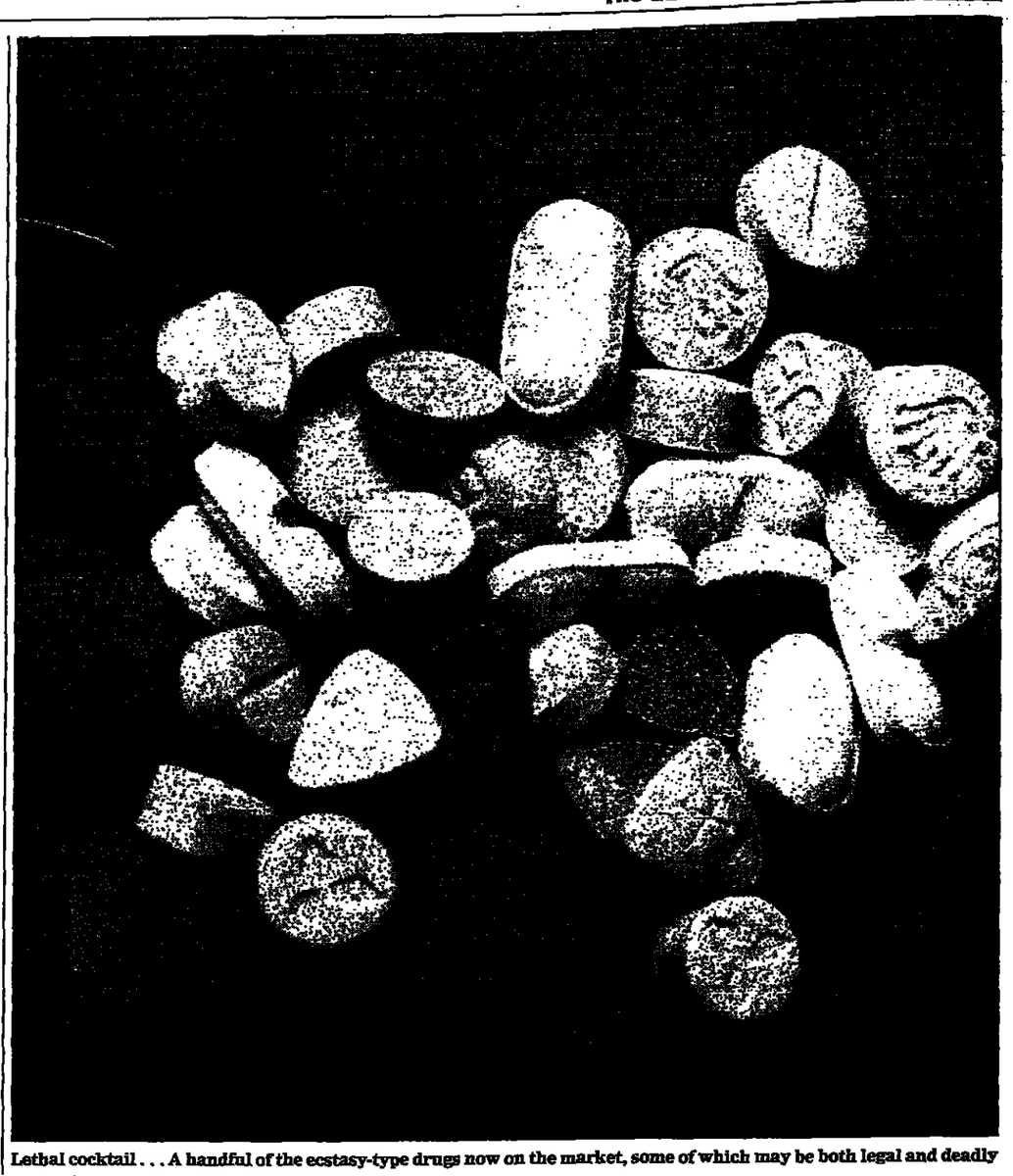
Cash and harry

☐ **Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man shelter £350 billion worth of offshore assets from around the world — mostly in tax-free company accounts.**

☐ **There are 90,000 companies registered on the Islands. The 575 residents of the tiny island of Sark alone hold 15,000 "nominee" directorships between them.**

☐ **One third of the depositors at the Isle of Man branch of the crashed bank, BCCI, failed to come forward to claim compensation of up to £15,000 and instead preferred to keep their anonymity.**

☐ **Measures to crack down on money laundering and tax evasion include a whistleblower's hotline, specialist financial crime squads with extra officers and stronger company regulation.**



Lethal cocktail . . . A handful of the ecstasy-type drugs now on the market, some of which may be both legal and deadly

New ecstasy variants 'deadly' but still legal

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

NEW drugs, some of them 33 times stronger than ecstasy, have been responsible for three deaths this year, according to police. Some of the drugs, which they say are being made by crime gangs, are still not illegal.

The National Criminal Intelligence Service announced yesterday that they had evidence that criminals were diversifying into a number of stronger derivatives of ecstasy, some of them with lethal side effects.

Two examples are are DOB, (4-bromo-2, 5 dimethoxy-amphetamine) also known as Golden Eagle, and Flatliners (4MTA).

DOB is said to be 33 times stronger than ecstasy. Flatliners have been responsible for three deaths this year — in Derby, Plymouth and Shepton Mallet, according to NCIS.

"We believe the diversification of the ecstasy market could lead to further fatalities," said Les Fiander of the NCIS drugs unit. "Users, believing they are taking ecstasy, could easily discover these tablets contain nothing more powerful than milk products.

"On the other hand they could contain a lethal strength of ecstasy. All of these tablets look the same."

He said many users did not know what they were buying, and this was being exploited by drug manufacturers. Intelligence also suggested that criminals who had been involved in armed robbery and cocaine importation had now moved into the production of synthetic drugs. Seven drug laboratories were uncovered in Britain last year.

"International co-operation and watertight legislation are the only effective means of dealing with this problem," said Mr Fiander. "We in the UK probably have the most powerful legislation in place, and NCIS supports the strengthening of this in anticipation of criminal activity, not in reaction to it."

The NCIS is now working with the Nordic countries, the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium to identify amphetamine laboratories and distribution patterns.

A Home Office spokeswoman said yesterday that consultations had been underway since August on 36 ecstasy-type drugs. The aim is to clarify and tighten legislation on new drugs as they are manufactured. Flatliners are not classified as illegal.

Gary Woolvett of Release, the drugs advice agency, said yesterday that until there was a proper system for testing synthetic drugs, there would be uncertainty about the dangers they posed. Release has not yet had any calls from users suffering problems from the new drugs, he said.

The book Phikal by Alexander and Ann Shulgin, probably the most exhaustive publication on synthetic drugs, suggests that DOB at doses in the 60-90mg range can produce feelings of anxiety, paranoid fantasies, flushing, palpitations and vomiting. It adds: "Any psychedelic effects seem to have been blurred by the more obvious toxic actions of the drug."

'Spymaster' was trailed, says Wilson's press man

David Pallister

FROM the paranoia gulch of the mid-1970s — aka 10 Downing Street — startling new evidence emerges about the bitter relations between Harold Wilson and his erstwhile spymaster, Lord Wigg.

Last week's revelation in the Spectator by the journalist Chapman Pincher was that Wigg believed he had been framed by Wilson on a kerb-crawling charge. Now Joe Haines, Wilson's press secretary, claims that the prime minister indirectly arranged for Wigg to be followed by a private detective — who discovered he had a mistress.

At the centre of all this intrigue was Wilson's desire to protect his private secretary, Lady Falkender.

Mr Haines claims that Wilson wanted the dirt on Wigg to prevent him including in his autobiography uncomplimentary material about Falkender — especially her two illegitimate children by a Daily Mail journalist. And he adds that Wigg obsessively believed, until his death in 1983, that it was Falkender and not Wilson who set him up on the prostitute charge.

George Wigg was made paymaster-general in Wilson's first cabinet in 1964 with the job of liaising with MI5. He was pushed aside three years on, partly because of the acrimonious rivalry between him and Falkender. After being ennobled and made chairman of the Tote, "Wigg kept his silence about everything for a very long time. Then, in the summer of 1974, word reached Wilson that he had written an autobiography and that part of it was devoted to an excoriating criticism of Lady Falkender", Haynes says. To stop Wigg and his likely revelation of government secrets, Haynes says Wilson told him that he had asked John Silkin, the minister of planning, to investigate Wigg's life.

Silkin's private eye "followed Wigg one evening to a one bedroom flat in London occupied by a woman. Wigg re-emerged the next morning". There was even talk of a love child.

Haines surmises that Silkin must have made Wigg aware of what was known about him "because Wigg's book, when it was published, made no waves".

Which explains why these ancient matters are now being dredged up. After Woodrow Wyatt's petty indiscretions, Mr Pincher believes that the Wigg papers, which he wanted made public 10 years after his death, may be "bloody dynamite".

At present held at the London School of Economics, the papers are waiting to be opened by Wigg's executor, Roy Roebuck, who, in the Guardian this week, wrote that they were voluminous. But, as for their explosive contents, "rather boring". Nonetheless, Mr Roebuck said Mr Pincher's story of the kerb-crawling frame-up was astonishing. The charge was thrown out, as kerb-crawling was not an offence, but the magistrate did call Wigg a liar.

Mr Pincher disagrees, but this is not the view in the Dictionary of National Biography. The author wrote that Wigg had been "accurately accused". This informed commentator was one Woodrow Wyatt.



Lady Falkender: Wilson had tried to guard her privacy



Joe Haines: says Silkin was told to investigate Wigg

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Film censor 'weak and dithering'

Fiachra Gibbons

THE film censor's office is today branded "weak and dithering" and its decisions often "abitrary and bizarre".

Writing in the Guardian's Friday Review, Ros Hodgkiss, who resigned from the board in July, says the British Board of Film Classification was being run on "ridiculously paternalistic" lines. She had left in protest at the "pompous" content of a censorship roadshow ordered by Andreas Whittam Smith, the president, to dispel the board's reputation for excessive secrecy.

Ms Hodgkiss, a teacher, who worked as a censor for three years, said protests from morality campaigners, or a hostile article about a film in a tabloid, was enough to send the office into panic. "Controversy set the board backtracking on policy, or retreating into silence," she writes. "A handful of letters constituted a public outcry."

She claimed decisions about cuts to "awkward" films were often put on ice, and the reports by examiners like herself filed away in drawers and ignored.

The board was run by James Ferman, the chief censor, like a personal fiefdom, she said. After 23 years in the job, Mr Ferman is to step down next month.

Since joining the board, Mr Whittam Smith has taken a much more robust line on both pornography and violence, banning some films which Mr Ferman had wanted to pass, including the video of Sam Peckinpah's Straw Dogs.

Despite Mr Ferman's liberal credentials, Ms Hodgkiss writes: "I found him to be a chauvinist, but some others, I know, did not. The general view was that James was James and you had to adapt to his ways."

She claimed many of the controversies which have dogged the board — like the row over David Cronenberg's Crash — could have been avoided if Mr Ferman had not been such a "control freak".

She is equally critical of Mr Whittam Smith, who joined the board promising openness. "So far he has not delivered. He does not have Ferman's commitment, nor his film literacy."

Neither Mr Ferman nor Mr Whittam Smith was available for comment last night.

Confessions of a censor, Friday Review cover story



Terry O'Callaghan, who has spent about £24,000 on trying to get Coral to pay out his winnings of £259,000. The court cannot enforce his claim PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

Winner still a loser as judges say bookies' bets are beyond the law

Vivek Chaudhary
Sports Correspondent

Arbitration evens odds between grumbling gambler and bookie

A FORMER professional gambler who won £259,000 on a football bet but did not receive a penny after bookmakers refused to pay him, was told by the Court of Appeal yesterday that there was nothing the law could do to help him collect his winnings.

Terry O'Callaghan, aged 54, won the money after placing a £50 bet predicting the correct results of four football matches at Coral bookmakers in Cardiff in 1996.

The court was told that Coral refused to pay the money because the bet had not been photographed by the betting shop manager at the time it was placed. Bookmakers rules state they are not obliged to pay money on bets if they are not photographed at the time for verification.

The three Appeal Court judges, who reserved judgment when the case was heard two weeks ago, ruled yesterday that, under the Gaming Act of 1854, any wager between a gambler and a bookmaker is not recognised by the law and, consequently, they had no right to overturn decisions made by bookmakers choosing not to pay winnings.

Mr O'Callaghan tried to get the court to overturn a decision made by the Green Seal Service (GSS), a betting arbitrator which has now been disbanded, that Coral had every right not to pay him.

Lord Justice Hirst, sitting with Lord Justice May and Sir Christopher Slade, ruled: "The transaction [between Mr O'Callaghan and Coral] is ... not in law a contract and is not a transaction which can be enforced by proceedings in court. The court cannot do anything for the parties beyond telling them ... that their transaction is not, in law, a contract."

Mr O'Callaghan argued that the decision of the GSS was biased, that he was not shown evidence against him, and that his dispute should have been heard by an independent arbitrator with no link to the betting industry.

The GSS was run by the Sporting Life newspaper, and its panel of arbitrators remained anonymous. Mr O'Callaghan, who has given up gambling since the dispute, said yesterday that he planned to take his case to the House of Lords.

He added: "It can't be right that the law can't do anything if a bookmaker chooses not to pay out the winnings. The betting industry is being run like a closed shop and is hiding behind the law. It is handicapped by a law dating back to 1854."

The Appeal Court hearing was told that the manager of the betting shop had been sacked and that Coral had returned Mr O'Callaghan's £50 wager. The manager also failed to phone Coral's racing room for authority to accept the bet, a procedure he was meant to follow.

Richard Englehart, QC for Mr O'Callaghan, told the court that it was no fault of his client that the betting shop manager had forgotten to photograph the bet; and there was no evidence of collusion between the two when the bet was placed.

A spokesman for Coral said yesterday: "We are pleased that the original judgment [of the arbitrators] has been confirmed. There is a new arbitration system in force now."

Mr O'Callaghan has spent about £24,000 on his case. The court has not ruled on who will pay almost £30,000 costs.

DISPUTES between gamblers and bookmakers may become easier to settle under a new arbitration service, *writes Vivek Chaudhary*.

Under the Gaming Act of 1854, there is nothing the law can do to make a bookmaker pay the winnings of a disgruntled gambler. Neither can a bookmaker recover debts from a gambler.

Two weeks ago, the Independent Betting Arbitration Service (IBAS) replaced the Green Seal Service (GSS) which dealt with around 2,000 complaints each year and was criticised for being biased towards the betting industry. The arbitration panel was annonymous and hearings were often held behind closed doors. Gamblers like Mr O'Callaghan claimed that they were not allowed to contest evidence.

The IBAS claims to be independent, though it is managed by the Mirror Group which owns the Racing Post newspaper. Around 7,000 of Britain's 9,000 betting shops have signed up to the IBAS. But many gamblers say betting disputes should be settled in court. Around £7 billion a year is spent on betting, of which £1 billion is paid in duty.

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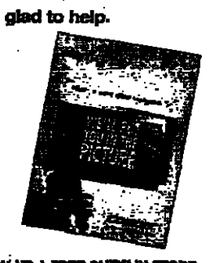


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I would rather let my three-year old watch Reservoir Dogs than Barney, the purple dinosaur. But then the job gets you like that. You either become delinquent or Outraged of Eastbourne.
Confessions of a censor

Friday Review page ii

"The most inventive and dazzling movie of the year."
"breathtaking ★★★★★"
Christopher Tookey - Daily Mail
"terrifically funny and sophisticated..."
Anthony Quinn - The Independent
"A brilliant work of genius... fabulously funny"
Nick Fisher - The Sun
"★★★★★... one of the most enjoyable, fantastical films you'll see this year... hilarious right from the opening shot"
Dean Evans - Total Film
"...irresistible"
Xan Brookes - The Big Issue



DREAMWORKS PICTURES AND PDI PRESENT "ANTZ"
WOODY ALLEN, SHARON STONE, JEFFREY KATZENBERG, HARRY GREESTON-WILLIAMS AND JOHN POWELL
SCREENPLAY BY TODD ALCOTT AND CHRIS WEITZ & PAUL WEITZ
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JEFFREY KATZENBERG, STACEY SNIDER, PENNEY FINKELMAN COX, SANDRA RABINS, CARL ROSENDAHL
PRODUCED BY BRAD LEWIS, ARON WARNER, PATTY WOOTEN
DIRECTED BY ERIC DARNELL, TIM JOHNSON
PG

NOW SHOWING AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Parted Siamese twins' chance of survival 'better than 50-50'

Will Woodward

SIAMESE twin girls separated in an emergency operation last week have a "better than 50-50 chance" of survival, their surgeons said yesterday.

Edward Kiely and Professor Lewis Spitz, two of the world's leading paediatric surgeons, said the girls, who shared their liver and intestine, "wouldn't have lasted the night" without the operation 30 hours after they were born.

During the operation at Great Ormond Street Hospital, Mr Kiely had to massage the heart of one of the twins to keep her alive. Throughout the night he administered tiny quantities of vital drugs.

Mr Kiely plans to operate on both girls within the next 48 hours to close a gap in their abdomens currently being held together by a plastic mesh. The weaker baby will also have a second operation, already undergone by her sister, in about two weeks, to repair her damaged intestine.

"I would say there is a better than 50-50 chance that both of them will survive," said Mr Kiely. "They have been progressing better than I had expected. It was substantially less than that when they arrived."

Five surgeons led by Mr Kiely, four anaesthetists and six assistants carried out the operation, which began at 10.30pm last Friday after the children were airlifted by the RAF from Bristol.

They were separated after about two hours and then operated on individually for about an hour.

"It's very complicated because you are doing surgery from an angle you don't approach the body from normally," said Mr Kiely.

"Nothing is exactly where you would expect it to be. It's technically straightforward — provided you know what you are doing."

Prof Spitz said that in a newborn baby, the liver is the consistency of soft butter.

He and Mr Kiely have together carried out 14 operations on conjoined twins since 1984. "Previous experience makes a huge difference," said Prof Spitz.

The parents have touched their children but will not be able to handle them until next week.

He said: "Having twins at any time is a draining experience, having conjoined twins imposes stresses you can only imagine."

They were born by Caesarean section last Thursday at St Michael's hospital, Bristol. They were initially in good shape but, suffering from peritonitis, the girls deteriorated during Friday morning.

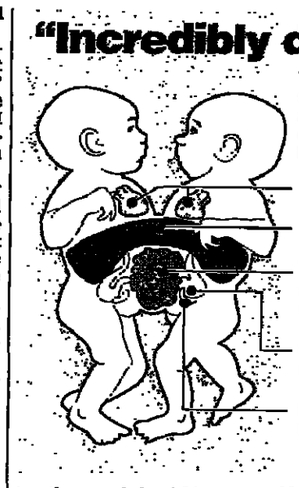
They are expected to remain at the hospital for another two to three months, and it will be next April or May before they are able to function independently without intravenous feeding.

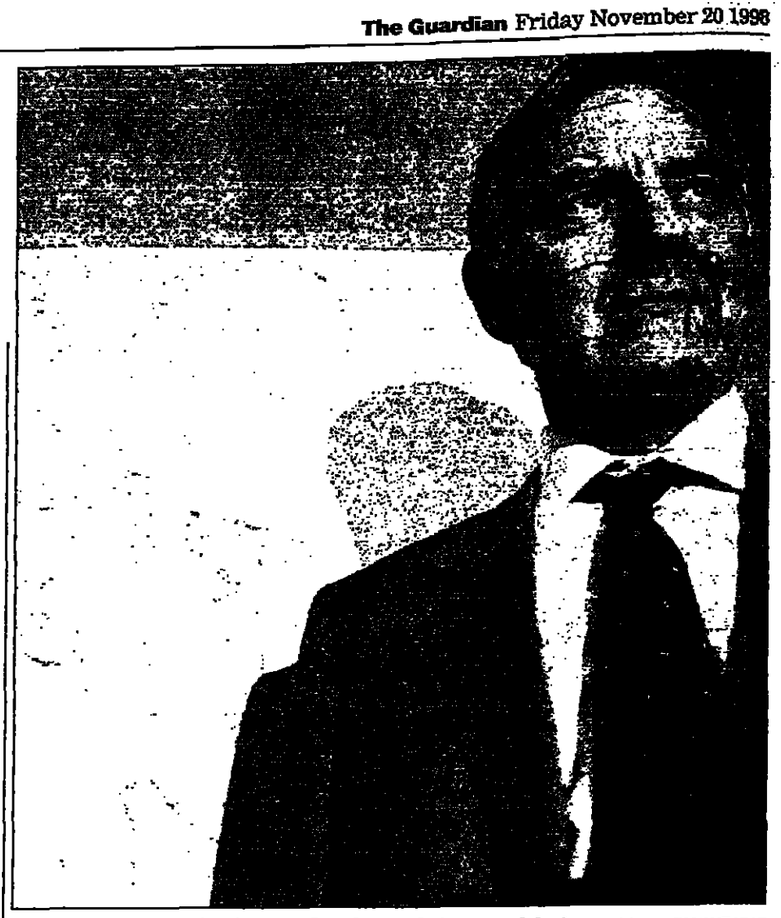
Conjoined twins account for about one in 50,000 pregnancies. Because 60 per cent are stillborn, the incidence in live births is about one in 200,000.

Of 14 cases dealt with by the two Great Ormond Street doctors five were emergency operations, from which three children survived. In five planned operations, four died and six survive. In four cases surgery was impossible and the twins died.

The family's identity is being kept secret at their request. The parents have been inundated with offers from newspapers for their exclusive story.

"Incredibly delicate"





Edward Kiely: 'It's straightforward if you know what you are doing' PHOTOGRAPH: TOBY MELVILLE

Police stalk lion abandoned on edge of moor

Helen Carter

A HUNGRY and bedraggled lion was loose on the edge of Dartmoor last night after it spent the day being stalked by police officers and marksmen.

The big cat was spotted yesterday morning by a man who was driving along a country lane in the Wrangaton area of south Devon.

He immediately alerted police who launched a search and warned people to stay indoors.

A six-inch paw print was found and big cat experts confirmed it was a lion's.

By mid-afternoon, two further sightings had been reported within a four-mile radius and more than 30 officers were involved in the search, including two marksmen and dog handlers.

A field in Marley Head, close to the village of South Brent, was sealed off after strange rustling noises were heard in the undergrowth, but the lion eluded its pursuers once more. As daylight faded, the search was abandoned.

Police have no idea how it reached the area or where it came from. Nearby wildlife parks and zoos said they had no missing lions.

Sergeant Alan Mobbs, of Devon and Cornwall police, said: "We believe it has not eaten for two or three weeks and it is looking emaciated because lionesses tend to do all the hunting."

He said the search would only resume today if there were any more sightings.

The lion was spotted by Paul Gourley as he was driving home after dropping his children off at school. "I saw something running towards me — I immediately saw that it was a lion with a mane," he said. "The mane was bloodied and it looked in a pretty poor state."

Mr Gourley, aged 42, who lives nearby, was initially worried about telling the police in case they thought he was a hoaxer.

Robin Godbeer, a keeper from the Dartmoor Wildlife Park at Sparkwell, took a cast of the paw print and identified it. "If it is cold and hungry it is going to look for food, but for most of the big cats, humans are last on the list," he said.

The wildlife park's owner, Ellis Daw, said it was unlikely to attack people. "I feel sorry for it, because somebody, somewhere has slipped up and released it.

"We know none of the zoos are missing a lion, so we can only assume it has escaped from a circus or is an illegal pet which has escaped or been abandoned."



Even a hungry, bedraggled lion can be dangerous

Julie Andrews loses her voice

Martin Kettle in Washington

JULIE Andrews will probably never sing again after failing to recover from throat surgery a year ago, her husband, the film director Blake Edwards, has revealed.

The five-octave — and always terribly English — soprano voice that made The Sound of Music into the most successful film musical of all time has not recovered fully from the operation to remove non-cancerous throat nodules, Mr Edwards told Parade magazine, due out next week.

"I don't think she'll sing again — it's an absolute tragedy," Mr Edwards said.

The 63-year-old Surrey-born actress had surgery at the end of a successful Broadway stage run in Mr Edwards's Victor/Victoria — she also starred in the movie version.

Her voice, which was the foundation of a career spanning more than 40 years of West End and Broadway appearances, has not been the same since. "She was told she'd be OK in six weeks, the voice would actually be better," Mr Edwards said. "It's over a year, and if you heard it, you'd weep."

Earlier this year, Ms Andrews told an interviewer that the operation was not serious, but Mr Edwards has now confirmed that the surgery has taken an irreversible toll.

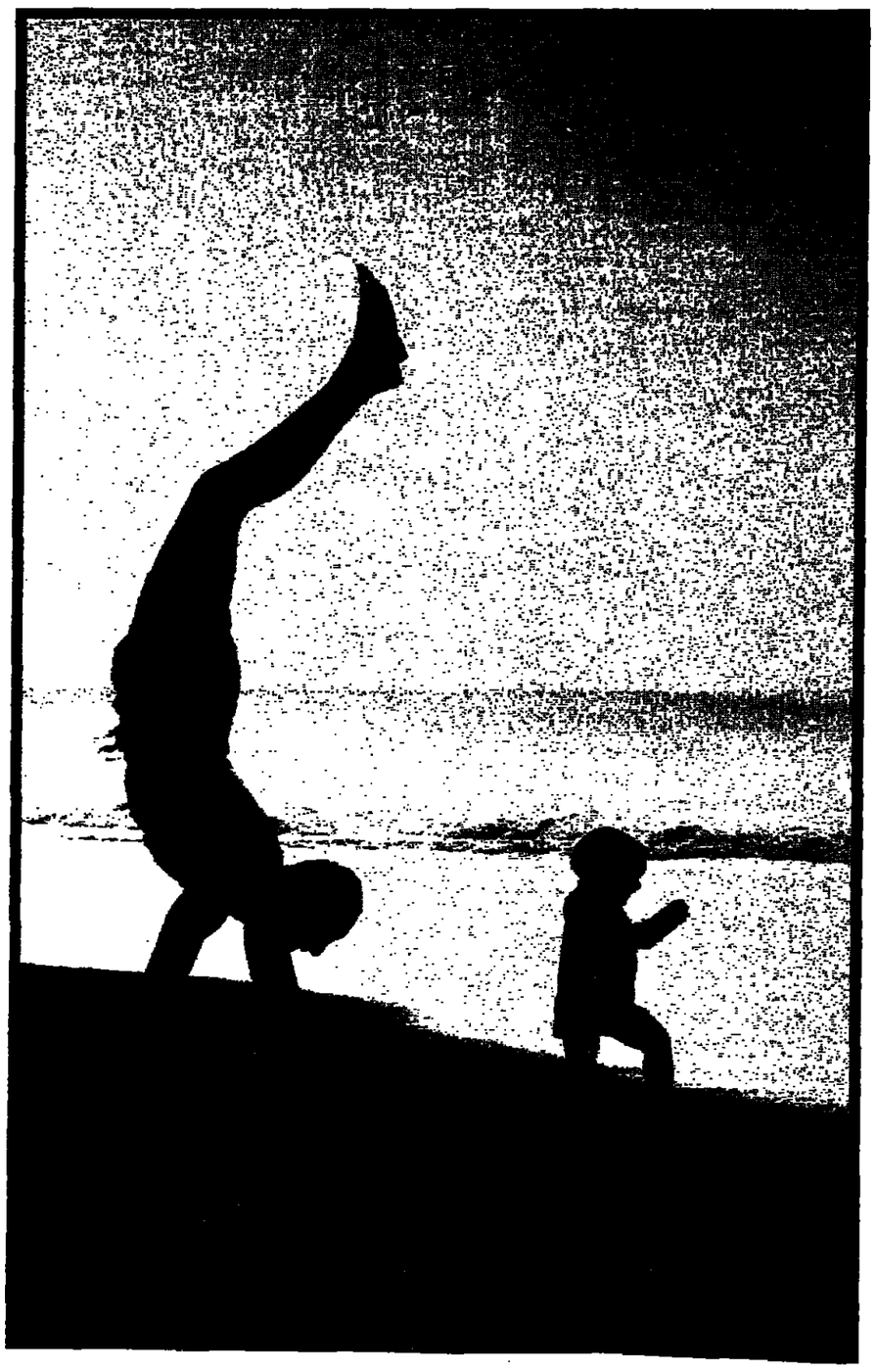
"There isn't a day when her voice doesn't get weak," he told the magazine.

Ms Andrews's spokesman said yesterday that the star was "very saddened" by the loss of her voice. "The doctor who did the surgery said they don't know when it might heal," Gene Schwam told reporters. She might have declined to have the procedure had she known it would destroy her voice.



Julie Andrews ... failed to recover from throat surgery

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TAKE CARE OF AN INDUSTRY THAT TAKES CARE OF BRITAIN

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LORDS v COMMONS: Confusion reigns over fate of European bill as Labour and Tories argue over deadlines

Huff and bluff after peers win round one



The bills they did get past the Lords . . . Cabinet ministers yesterday with many of the 52 Acts of Parliament passed over the last 19 months, the longest parliamentary session for more than 30 years. The Queen will open the new session of Parliament on Tuesday PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN DEMPSEY

Ewen MacAskill on aftermath of historic night at Westminster

LLOYD George's achievements as prime minister won him a place on one of the prestigious pedestals that line the members' lobby in the House of Commons. Not least among his successes was curbing the power of what MPs refer as "The Other Place" a couple of hundred yards away.

Eighty-seven years later, Tony Blair is planning to finish the job, ending the antiquated system that allows birth to secure a place in the House of Lords. It promises to be a protracted fight.

Mr Blair and the Commons came off second best in the last fortnight over the European election bill. The Lords on Wednesday night rejected the bill for a fifth time and the legislation was lost, leaving a question mark over next June's European election. Round one to the Lords.

What happens next? No one knows. Over the last 48 hours there has been bluff and counter-bluff from both the Government and the Tories.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, was first up, issuing an ultimatum to the peers on Wednesday morning, warning them it was all or nothing: if the peers rejected the bill, the Government would have to postpone plans to fight the European election under PR until 2004. The peers called his bluff.

Late on Wednesday night, the Leader in the Lords, Baroness Jay, ignoring Mr Straw's earlier ultimatum, disclosed that it was not all or nothing after all and the election could still be fought under PR.

She said the bill will be brought back in the Queen's Speech on Tuesday and she would use the Parliament Act, which Lloyd George had used to beat the Lords, to ensure the Government got its way this time. She set a new deadline of mid-January for passage of the bill: if this was met, plans to hold the European election under PR could go ahead and if not, it will be fought under first-past-the-post.

The Tories disputed the deadline. "The mid-January deadline is a myth. There is no justification for that," William Hague's spokesman said. The Home Office insisted yesterday mid-January was a real deadline because returning officers have to be recruited and the 100,000 people needed to run an election trained — and parties given time to sort out candidates.

If a decision was left until later than that, it would produce chaos for the parties, especially for the Conservatives. Their candidates would have to go through a new selection process for first-past-the-post, potentially reopening European divisions.

The Conservatives said the bill could be on the statute book by mid-March rather than mid-January and there would still be plenty of time to hold the June election under PR. They added that because of the Parliament Act, everyone knew the Government get its way in the end and everyone could prepare on that basis. The Parliament Act prevents the peers from rejecting a bill such as the European election bill brought back for a second session, but it cannot prevent them debating it for as long as they want — all the way until next autumn if they choose.

The act, normally the preserve of parliamentary committee clerks and academics, was being hastily scrutinised yesterday by peers, MPs and journalists.

The act says the Government will get its bill if it has not completed its passage at the end of the parliamentary session or if the peers vote against it. On the face of it, there appears to be little the Government can do to speed up the process.

But there are lots of tactics available to the Government when the going gets rough. It could even push the bill through the Commons in a day and onto the Lords before Christmas, and then bring the session to a sudden end in January. The bill would automatically become law and the Government could have another Queen's Speech in February.

That would be drastic but it shows the Government can get its way if it is determined enough. Such strong-arm tactics may not be necessary. Even on Wednesday night there were signs of Tory peers becoming nervous about wrecking a Government bill.

The Parliament Act has been used very sparingly since the time of Lloyd George. In 1949, Clement Attlee changed it, reducing the time Lords could delay a bill from two years to one. Since then, it has only been used once, in 1990, when Mrs Thatcher forced through the War Crimes Bill.

In the mid-1970s, the Parliament Act was left hanging over the peers when Labour introduced pro-union measures and the bill was passed by mid-March, without the act being invoked. That could be a precedent for the European election bill.

The chances are peers will compromise — but they are in a bloody-minded mood and may only agree at the last minute, just in time to allow the election to be held under PR.

Then they move on to the main battle, their own survival. The peers are showing no more willingess to surrender their rights, whatever they say in public, than their ancestors did when confronting Lloyd George.

Leader comment, page 13

Timetable for one of century's biggest constitution clashes

November 25, 1997: The row begins innocuously enough when the European Parliamentary Elections Bill is given a second reading by the Commons. This is an important date, as the Parliament Act, used to bully the Lords, can only be invoked one year after the second reading, meaning it can come into effect next Wednesday.

November 18, 1998: The Lords reject the European bill for a fifth time in the final round of a Lords-Commons ping-pong. The Government concedes defeat, promises to bring bill back and to invoke the Parliament Act to force it through.

November 24, 1998: The European bill is brought back in the Queen's Speech. And there is a fresh bill, to abolish the voting rights of hereditary peers.

Mid-January 1999: The Government's deadline. If the Lords do not accept the European bill by then, the Government says the Euroelection will have to be fought under the existing first-past-the-post rather than PR.

Mid-March 1999: Tories say that if the bill is accepted, there is still time enough to fight the election under PR.

June 9, 1999: Euro-election.

Autumn 1999: The bill to abolish the voting rights of hereditary peers becomes law.

PM backs minister as new complaint is lodged

David Hencke, Westminster Correspondent

TONY Blair was last night urged to sack Geoffrey Robinson, as the beleaguered Paymaster General faced fresh allegations from the Tories of failing to declare more business interests.

William Hague, the Tory leader, wrote to the Prime Minister demanding his dismissal following the minister's brief 54-second apology to Parliament yesterday.

"Such an apology by a serving minister is highly unusual if not unprecedented and merely confirms that the reputation of the Paymaster General is now irreparably tarnished.

"He is no longer fit to remain a government minister. You tacitly accept this since you are not prepared to allow him to represent the Government in the Chamber of the House of Commons. Since October this year he has not once spoken in debates on Treasury matters, even when the issues concerned are his ministerial responsibilities."

"It is time you stopped clinging on to one of your cronies and had the courage to sack the Paymaster General."

Mr Blair last night stuck to his view that Mr Robinson's five failures to disclose his business interests were "an oversight".

Details of a fresh complaint were lodged by David Heathcoat-Amory, the shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards.

This involved the failure to declare his ownership of the Indiana-based Roll Center Incorporated — which Mr Robinson admitted yesterday he had been a director of from 1988 to 1992.

The papers also shows that Mr Robinson was working with disgraced Labour tycoon Robert Maxwell since 1987.

The Liberal Democrats have also demanded Mr Robinson's resignation. Malcolm Bruce, the party's Treasury spokesman, has said his credibility as a minister has been seriously undermined.

Ulster and Highlands are too rich for EU aid

Martin Walker in Strasbourg

NORTHERN Ireland and the Scottish Highlands and Islands are now too wealthy to qualify for more than £1 billion of Europe's most generous funding system, but for the first time Cornwall, West Wales and South Yorkshire are poor enough to get the money, the European Commission has decided.

Regions qualify for the top category of the EU's annual £20 billion Structural Funds budget, known as Objective One status, if their income per head is less than 75 per cent of the EU average.

Cornwall, which is set to become a new and separate region in order to qualify for the money, thus emerges as the poorest part of Britain, with 69.87 per cent of the EU average.

The exclusion of Northern Ireland — reckoned to have a per capita income of 80.19 per cent of the average — poses a political problem, with the peace process at a difficult stage, to justifyaccess to funds for what must be Europe's most special case.

"Northern Ireland does not meet the normal criteria but it has always been an exceptional case and the EU's Cardiff summit in June reaffirmed that and agreed to look at new ways to to fund it.

Cutting off Objective One status would not be in keeping with this resolution," said Labour MEP Arlene McCarthy, who drafted a special report on the issue which the parliament passed yesterday.

Ms McCarthy has urged a transition period for regions which lose their objective one status, like Northern Ireland and the Highlands and Islands, so that funding does not stop overnight.

She has also urged a greater geographical flexibility in defining regions and in measuring relative socio-economic deprivation.

The Highlands and Islands poses another problem for the Government. The region has a per capita income at 76.47 per cent of the EU average. But it also had some special problems and the local economy was not growing, said Labour MEP Bill Miller, who is arguing the Scottish case in parliament.

"The commission is proposing some exceptions to its rules and we will have to work hard with the Government to get the Highlands and Islands case reconsidered."

The new figures for aid have been produced by Eurostat, the EU's statistical agency, on the basis of income figures from 1994-96. Other factors, including local unemployment and investment levels, are also taken into account before the horse-trading begins between member states in the European Council, where the share-out of the structural funds is usually one of hardest fought battles of the EU process.

Ireland also has a problem with the structural funds, for which the whole country used to qualify.

But the 1990s surge in prosperity has now taken Ireland's average GDP per capita above British levels. So to keep some of the money, Ireland is now petitioning Eurostat for the country to be divided into two regions.

For Northern Ireland to be excluded would create a new cross-border political issue when co-operation is a crucial element in the peace process.

The new calculation will affect funding over the next EU budget period, which runs from 2000-2006, and for which there will be a total of £180 billion in structural funds for Britain's share is usually about eight per cent, or £14,400 million. The money is available to fund a host of projects such a as roads, job training, environmental clean-up and assistance for small firms.

UN panel calls on Britain to prosecute General Pinochet

Jamie Wilson and John Mullin

A UNITED Nations panel yesterday called on the Government to prosecute General Augusto Pinochet under English law if the House of Lords rules that he should not be extradited to Spain.

In a clear and strongly worded recommendation, the UN Committee Against Torture, which periodically reviews the UK's civil liberties record, said that if the Pinochet case was not considered by the Director of Public Prosecutions, Britain could be in violation of international treaties.

The committee, made up of 10 independent legal experts who monitor compliance with the 1984 international convention against torture, issued its recommendation after considering a report presented by the British government.

The House of Lords is due to rule next Wednesday on last month's High Court decision that the 82-year-old general is entitled to immunity from arrest for offences committed while he was Chile's president.

The Spanish authorities are calling for his extradition on charges of genocide, torture, and terrorism.

Under the 1984 Convention Against Torture, to which the UK became a signatory in 1988, a country must "take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction" against anybody suspected of carrying out acts of torture.

John Morris, the Attorney General, has already turned down one request to launch a private prosecution against the general.

He said that there was "insufficient admissible evidence under English law of an offence", although he has yet to give full reasons.

Yesterday a spokesman for Amnesty International said that the UN recommendation mirrored the repeated appeals by the human rights' group to the Government "to respect the principles of international law by trying or extraditing all people suspected of crimes against humanity".

Assessing the UK's overall civil liberties record, the UN panel meeting in Geneva praised the removal of corporal punishment as a penalty in several overseas dependant territories.

The Government's decision to incorporate the European human rights convention was also hailed as a "positive step".

But among subjects highlighted for concern by the committee was concerned by the number of deaths in police custody and the apparent failure of the Government to provide an effective investigative mechanism to deal with allegations of police and prison authorities abuse.

The report also criticised the housing of asylum seekers in prisons. At present there are between three and four hundred asylum seekers housed in Britain's prisons.

In the past the UN committee has severely criticised the Royal Ulster Constabulary for its policing of Northern Ireland.

Yesterday the committee welcomed the continuing peace process while calling for a number of reforms in the province, including an end to the use of plastic bullets, the closure of Castlereagh interrogation centre in east Belfast where terrorist suspects are held, and for the RUC to increase its Catholic intake.

http://reports.guardian.co.uk/pinochet/

Government plan to 'name and shame' incompetent doctors

Sarah Boseley Health Correspondent

THE Government is to ensure that doctors found to have botched operations or maltreated their patients are named and shamed as soon as their poor performances are discovered, without waiting for formal complaints to the General Medical Council, it was announced yesterday.

Alan Milburn, the health minister, said: "There will no longer be any hiding place for those doctors or managers who fail to acknowledge the seriousness of problems inside their own organisation."

Although an inquiry, followed by disciplinary proceedings at the GMC were set in motion against consultant gynaecologist Rodney Ledward in 1996, the public did not discover the result of his conduct until a few months ago.

The GMC investigated 14 complaints against him and found he had badly botched the operations of 10 of them. Some women had their ovaries removed without their consent, while other operations were so badly carried out that women were left in pain for years.

The hospital has since received 179 calls from women anxious or angry about their own treatment and 24 have been referred for further medical investigation.

Complaints had been made against Mr Ledward for years, but nothing happened until 1996.

Mr Ledward effectively policed himself. He was in charge of clinical audit — ensuring the work of his department was up to scratch.

Under the Government's reforms, doctors will have to share their results with the chief executive of their NHS Trust.

Mr Milburn, speaking at the Royal College of Physicians, said that one of the proposed new bodies, the Commission for Health Improvement, will send in teams to investigate what has gone wrong in any future case of malpractice as soon as it comes to light.

If the commission finds that the conduct or treatment given by a doctor or team of doctors is seriously flawed, it will publish a report and name the guilty parties immediately.

"In such cases," he said, "the commission will be able to recommend to the Secretary of State that new teams of experienced doctors, nurses and managers are sent in immediately to take over the running of a failing service."

His announcement is a serious setback to the GMC's endeavours to retain self-regulation of the medical profession, which has been under threat for some time and reached crisis point over the Bristol babies scandal.

The Government's new tough line is partly a response to the foot-dragging by the GMC council earlier this month.

In spite of the strong recommendation by the president, Sir Donald Irvine, the council voted to postpone a decision on accepting revalidation — where doctors have to prove their competence at regular intervals and if they persistently fail, are being stripped of their right to practise.

With the GMC giving the appearance of reluctance to reform, Mr Milburn is seizing the opportunity to push ahead and effectively give its new Commission some of the disciplinary role that has always been the preserve of the GMC, which refuses to name accused doctors until they come before its tribunal.

News in brief

Cruel circus worker jailed

A CIRCUS worker who beat four elephants with shovels while working for animal trainer Mary Chipperfield was yesterday jailed for four months.

Michael Gills, 65, hit one of them more than 20 times in one session, and used a hooked iron bar and a chain to administer beatings.

The cruelty was exposed by the charity Animal Defenders, which secretly filmed the attacks at Mary Chipperfield's winter quarters at Over Wallop, Hampshire.

Gills, of Crawley, West Sussex, who admitted 11 charges of causing cruelty to animals between October last year and January this year at an earlier hearing, was also banned from owning or working with animals for five years by Basingstoke magistrates, Hampshire.

After the hearing Animal Defenders called for stricter laws to protect circus and performing animals.

Drownings 'a mystery'

THE reason why a honeymoon couple drowned in a flooded river will remain a mystery, an inquest heard yesterday. An open verdict was recorded on Barry and Lynn Collett, who died on the second day of their honeymoon in August after setting off for a walk near the River Wharfe at Bolton Abbey, north Yorkshire.

The inquest in Skipton, north Yorkshire, heard that on the day the couple died water levels in the river had risen by up to five feet in less than a minute after heavy overnight rain.

The couple were not seen after they set off for a walk from their rented cottage. The body of student nurse Mrs Collett, 25, was found six days later. But the body of Mr Collett, 29, a computer operator, was not found until October 16, 10 miles downstream.

Arrest over Ahmed death

A 25-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested in connection with the murder of Bradford restaurateur Nissar Ahmed, a father of six whose leg and intestines were found dumped in plastic bags.

Detectives said yesterday that in Lipton and near Holme, they had found what they believed to be more human body parts, after the discovery on Friday, by an off-duty policewoman, of a severed leg in woodland near Dewsbury, West Yorkshire.

Mr Ahmed, 34, from West Bowling, Bradford, was identified by his family from a scar on the leg.The human remains had been found near Huddersfield at the village of Lepton. His metallic grey Ford Sierra, reported missing on Friday evening by his family, was found in Bradford on Tuesday.

Police have made a nationwide appeal for information.

Lorry raiders clean up

MEMBERS of a road haulage firm's fan club were yesterday asked to help police after a driver was kidnapped and had his lorry load stolen.

The Eddie Stobart company's lorry, named Alice, was parked in a layby on the A1 near Ferrybridge, West Yorkshire, when the 28-year-old driver was woken by masked raiders late on Tuesday.

He was tied up in the back of his cab and blindfolded. The raiders took the lorry, unloaded several thousand pounds' worth of Asda cleaning products, then returned the vehicle to the layby.

The driver, who has not been named, was finally freed on Wednesday morning when a motorist stopped to ask directions. He was not hurt.

Eddie Stobart fans try to spot as many lorries as possible, each of which has a girl's name painted on it.Police asked witnesses who saw the cab to contact them.

Shops' charity hopes dashed

HOPES that struggling village shops could get charitable status have been dashed by the Charity Commission, which has dampened speculation that the change could emerge from its review of the register of charities.

The idea gained momentum this year when the commission launched the review. As an illustrative example, it said the definition of charity could be extended to "helping rural communities improve retail and other services".

But charity commissioner Julia Unwin yesterday told a meeting of the National Association of Local Councils: "It is difficult to see how a village shop could be a charity. Nor is it charitable to provide a general subsidy to help keep a shop open." — *David Brindle*

The leak of the transfer is a symptom of the passing of the Russian president's power to cronies, reports **James Meek** in Moscow

Secret deal gave Yeltsin TV shares

The long-held suspicion that the president's advisers make his decisions and speak in his name is now accepted as fact

MORE than a quarter of the shares in Russia's biggest television channel were secretly transferred to President Boris Yeltsin by the powerful tycoon who marshalled backers for his 1996 re-election campaign, it was reported yesterday.

In what appears to be part of an intensifying struggle involving billionaire Boris Berezovsky, the former KGB and the Yeltsin family, several newspapers yesterday published copies of a document, notarised in 1994, giving the president full power of attorney over 26 per cent of the shares in the channel, ORT.

The document was passed to media late on Wednesday by Victor Ilyukhin, the communist MP who heads parliament's security committee and is a bitter opponent of Mr Yeltsin and Mr Berezovsky, and the "crony capitalism" their relationship exemplifies.

Mr Yeltsin's spokesman, Dmitri Yakushkin, denied that Mr Yeltsin had ever owned or controlled ORT shares. But Mr Berezovsky, who is travelling in the Caucasus, confirmed that the transfer had taken place. He said that he and other businessmen who acquired large stakes in ORT from the state had been obliged to sign the power of attorney by Alexander Korzhakov, the president's then chief bodyguard.

"Yes, this did happen, but we were forced to do it by Korzhakov," he told ORT from the Georgian capital, Tbilisi.

There is no evidence so far that Mr Yeltsin profited from his three-year control over the shares, evaded tax on them or acted illegally in accepting them.

But the revelation that he participated in such a big behind-the-scenes business deal — ORT has an audience of hundreds of millions of Russian-speakers and rakes in considerable advertising revenue — suggests that the endgame for the ailing Russian leader and his retinue is going to be ugly.

The long-held suspicion that Mr Yeltsin's advisers make the president's decisions and speak in his name is now widely accepted as fact.

One of the newspapers which published the revelations about ORT yesterday, Commersant Daily, speculated that Mr Yeltsin might never have have known he controlled the shares.

The leak of the ORT documents is a symptom of the passing of the president's power to the prime minister, Yevgeny Primakov, and of attempts by those who relied on the president's influence, such as Mr Berezovsky, to avoid probes into how they grew rich under his reign.

The leak looks like a direct response by the former KGB, the FSB, and the state prosecution service to the attack on them orchestrated by Mr Berezovsky this week in an attempt to discredit investigations into his business affairs.

Mr Berezovsky, a mathematician turned businessman, has interests from oil to newspapers and far beyond. He is a business partner of Rupert Murdoch and brokered the mysterious deal that resulted in the freeing of two British hostages from Chechenia earlier this year.

Until now he has been able to rely on his close ties with the Yeltsin inner circle — he is particularly close to the president's daughter and adviser, Tatyana Dyachenko — for protection.

This cosy relationship is now breaking up. With Mr Yeltsin increasingly out of the picture, his aides and relatives are looking to salvage what they can. One of the president's most effective defenders, his old spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky, has defected to the camp of the man most likely to succeed him, Moscow mayor Yuri Luzhkov, who yesterday launched a new political movement, Fatherland.

The security service and law enforcement agencies are increasingly looking to Mr Primakov as the ultimate source of authority in the country — and Mr Primakov owes Mr Berezovsky no favours.

Spielberg offers project on Holocaust to Germany

His video archive is extensive, writes **Ian Traynor** in Bonn

STEVEN SPIELBERG has stepped in to help the new German government out of a dilemma over a Holocaust memorial planned for Berlin by offering Germany his own project on Holocaust survivors as a centrepiece of a revised "remembrance centre".

With Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's government hoping to stop plans for an American-designed construction featuring hundreds of concrete pillars near the Brandenburg Gate, Spielberg's offer is likely to be seized on as an "interactive" way of commemorating the Nazis' slaughter of Jews.

In an interview published today in the news magazine Stern, the film director said he would be delighted to make his Frankfurt-based Shoah Foundation project part of the Berlin memorial.

Over several years the project has recorded interviews with almost 50,000 Holocaust survivors all over the world and made them available in computerised video form in Frankfurt.

"It would be wonderful if I could contribute [to the memorial]", Spielberg said.

Ten years after the decision to commission a German memorial "to the murdered Jews of Europe", the final decision on the monument has been deferred until next year.

Michael Naumann, a former New York publisher who is Mr Schröder's new arts supremo, welcomed Spielberg's offer. He suggested that the project become part of the Holocaust memorial and be housed in a £45 million Jewish museum which is being built in Berlin. The museum, in the form of a broken Star of David, was designed by the leading architect David Liebeskind.

There were two architectural competitions for the Berlin project and a shortlist of four entries was compiled last summer. The winner was expected to be a gigantic maze of 2,500 concrete pillars of varying heights designed by American Peter Eisenmann. Chancellor Helmut Kohl asked Mr Eisenmann to soften his design by altering the dimensions and adding more trees.

The monument, however, became a casualty of the recent general election campaign when Mr Schröder and Mr Naumann publicly expressed their dissatisfaction with the American design and with the notion of commemorating the Holocaust with a huge structure. Mr Schröder and Mr Kohl then agreed to shelve the issue until after the election.

The new government says a final decision on a memorial should be left to parliament, which will vote on the matter early next year.

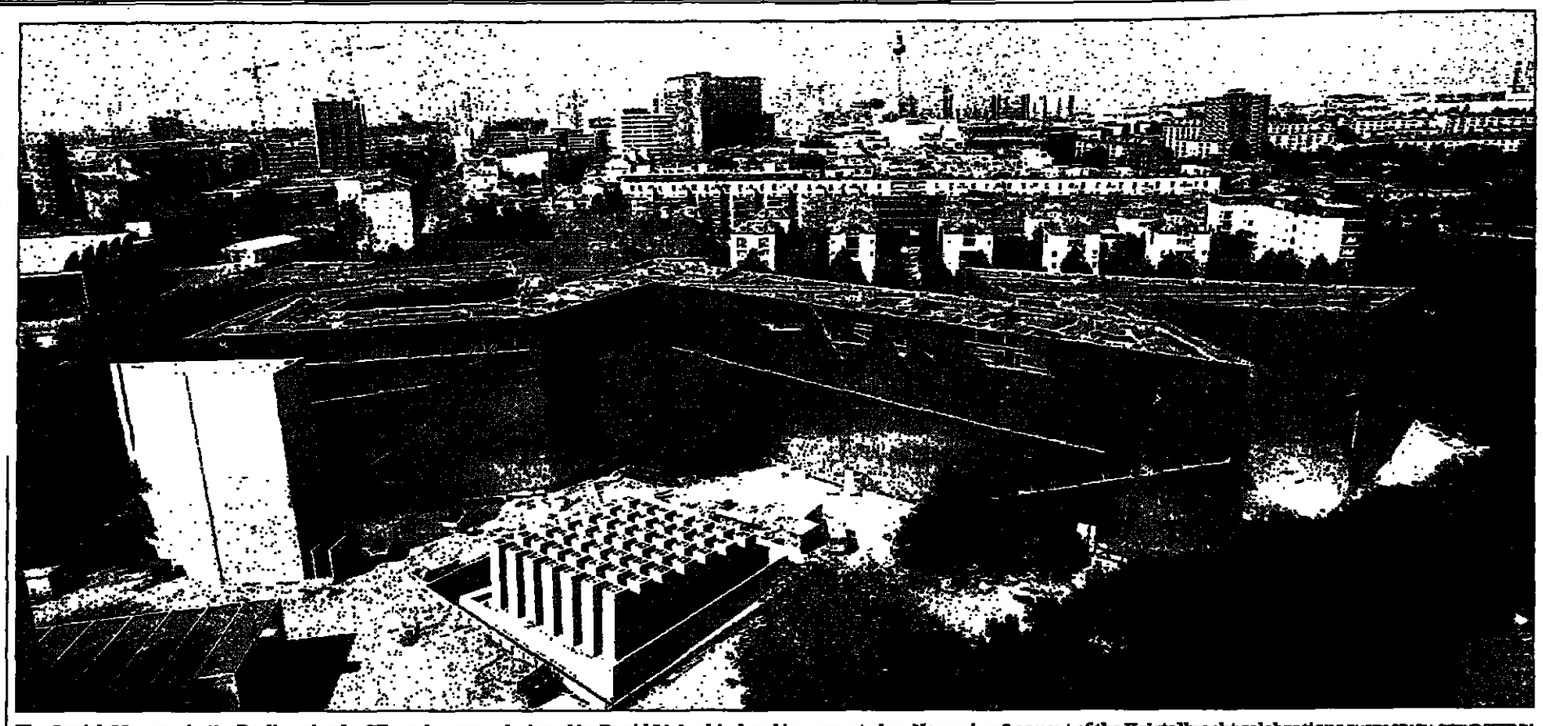
But the project set up by the director of Schindler's List is believed to be much closer to Mr Naumann's ideas on a Holocaust memorial. Spielberg said it was up the German government to contact him on the project.

Spielberg suggested his videotapes of 49,468 Holocaust survivors could be deployed in "meditation rooms" equipped with television screens. There would also be "interactive rooms" where the same material could be used for research.

"It should be a place of reflection, about what happened yesterday, how you feel about it today and what can be learned from it," Spielberg said. "It should be a place where a person can get lost in thought, where they are inspired by the words of the survivors."

Young Germans, especially, were curious about the second world war and what really happened, the director added.

"Germans are inclined to isolate themselves in a vacuum of shame, regret and guilt. They should look around. Other peoples, too, have gone too far and placed evil over good."



The Jewish Museum in the Berlin suburb of Kreuzberg was designed by David Liebeskind and inaugurated on November 9 as part of the Kristallnacht celebrations PHOTOGRAPH: BERND SETTNIK

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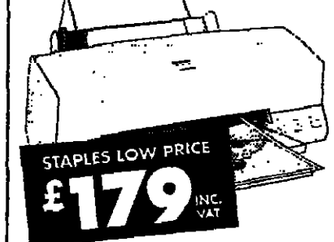
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TV priest leads Polish crusade to vanquish demon drink

Neil Bowdler in Kowalew

DRUNKEN priests are a depressingly common sight in Poland. Ryszard, a taxi driver speeding us to the village of Kowalew, said: "There's four around here alone."

He told of one priest and the sacramental wine, and a wedding where the priest staggered down the aisle.

Another man who knows the problem, and the solution, is Father Wieslaw Kondratowicz. He is parish priest in this small community in central Poland and runs a drying-out clinic for fellow priests.

He also fell foul of drink and has become to the Polish Church, what Betty Ford is to Hollywood's fallen idols. His grandfather drank himself to death and Father Kondratowicz fought his own addiction for six years.

He said: "I lay prostrate in church at night, waiting for a miracle, flashing lights, a voice from afar."

But it was the embarrassment of being caught by parishioners wobbling home singing, and then being thrown out of a wedding reception that led him to Alcoholics Anonymous. Soon, he was mounting the pulpit to declare: "I am an alcoholic." He launched a crusade to convince his countrymen that alcoholism is not a moral vice, but a physical illness.

Recently he took his campaign to the airwaves, appearing on a television chat show. He estimates 10 per cent of Polish priests have a drink problem. He believes the country's drinking subculture is responsible.

The inspiration for his clinic was Father Bob Bill, a visiting American priest, director of the Massachusetts-based Priest Recovery Programme.

It has taken in some 20 priests in recent years. Three are in residence at any one time. Although condemned by some in the Polish Church for washing dirty linen in public, Father Kondratowicz has had vocal support from the Pope.

Political feud makes Guyana a powder keg

In the first of two articles, **Ira Mathur** in Georgetown warns that impatience with a party dispute could lead to violence

GEORGETOWN, with its dusty streets, faded wooden colonial buildings, horse-drawn drays and general stores, appears quaint and peaceful.

But the country's stability hangs in the balance as effective action to deal with its faltering economy is stalled by a political impasse that has dragged on for almost a year. Desmond Hoyte, 69, the leader of the opposition People's National Congress has refused to recognise President Janet Jagan, 78 — the white, Chicago-born widow of the late president Dr Cheddi Jagan — ever since her People's Progressive Party/Civic won the election of December 1997.

If people continue to vote according to their race, the PNC may be excluded from office indefinitely. It is supported by Africans, but they comprise only 32 per cent of the population. The East Indians, who back the PPP/C, comprise 54 per cent.

This may explain the opposition's persistent use of extra-parliamentary methods since Mrs Jagan was elected.

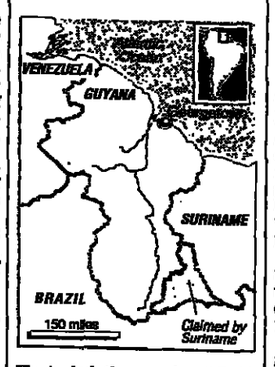
In the election, the PPP/C claimed a majority of seats in Parliament with 56 per cent of the vote. The PNC, which won 41 per cent of the vote, disputed the results and made allegations of electoral fraud.

PNC supporters took to the streets in a series of protest marches. White Barbie dolls representing Mrs Jagan were burnt and East Indian businesses were attacked.

On December 19, Janet Jagan was being sworn as President of Guyana when a High Court Order, based on a writ filed by the Opposition to stop her taking office, was delivered. She flung it over her shoulder and continued with the proceedings. She has since apologised, saying that it was a gut reaction based on an old struggle against "the British, the CIA, M15, and the PNC [who] have done everything to keep us out of office for almost 45 years".

In January 1998, her car was stoned on the way to the opening of parliament. No parliamentary business could be conducted since the opposition refused to take their seats. As the protests continued, tear gas was used and Mrs Jagan used her wide presidential powers to declare all large public gatherings illegal.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) team of heads of government, mindful of the racial violence in Guyana in the 1960s in which villages were burnt and scores of people killed, brokered an accord providing for an audit of the election results. In June, when the CARICOM audit upheld the election result, Mr Hoyte led thousands of PNC supporters back onto the streets. CARICOM stepped in again and persuaded Mrs Jagan and Mr Hoyte to abide by the accord.



Mrs Jagan has sent messages to Mr Hoyte proposing an informal meeting. Mr Hoyte, by refusing to meet in the president's office, and asking for a written agenda, has made it clear that he is still waiting for the High Court judgement before compromising.

Meanwhile, Guyana's people wait and worry.

The country is huge, 85,000 square miles, and its natural resources include gold, bauxite, diamonds, and fertile farmland producing sugar and rice. Yet its 750,000 people are among the poorest in the western hemisphere, with a per capita income of about £460. Its foreign debt, at almost £1 billion, is three times its GDP.

However, between 1991 and 1997, with the economy growing at an average 6 per cent annnually, and its first free and fair elections in 1992, Guyana seemed on its way out of the morass created by two decades of misrule by dictator Forbes Burnham.

Optimism ran high, but this has been a bad year. El Niño has hit agricultural output, prices for the major mineral exports, bauxite and gold, have fallen, and the Guyanese dollar is under pressure. Although Mrs Jagan's government claims that unemployment is 12 per cent, estimates put the unemployment and underemployment at about 30 per cent. Emigration is substantial. Violent crime is on the rise. The optimism is gone.

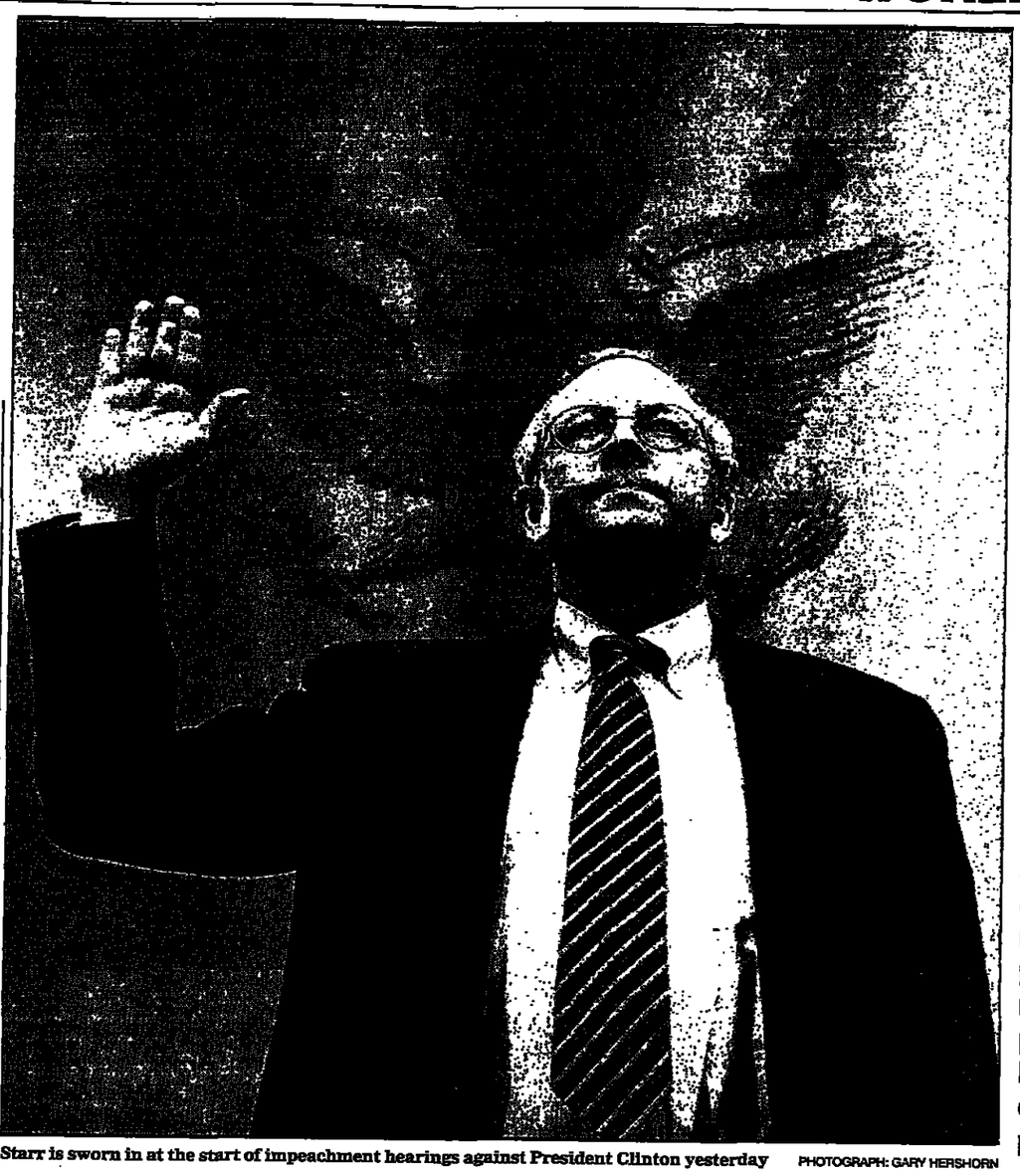
As the economy falters most Guyanese (even the leaders of the parties) say they would like to end the stalemate and begin reconstructing the country. But the roots of the problem lie in the government of Forbes Burnham, the founder of the PNC, who took power after independence in 1966.

His increasingly despotic rule and mismanagement of the economy was allowed to continue until his death in 1986.

In a country where the salaries of primary school teachers were, until recently, below the official poverty line, people want their leaders to concentrate on the economy, not political feuding. The fear is that, in the absence of leadership and political will to ensure economic progress, the anger of an entire people without hope could be easily manipulated. The country's plight is summed up by the sight of a boy, in faded shorts, aimlessly swinging an empty red plastic bucket on a dirt road. Nearby is a signpost which points to Sir Walter Raleigh's El Dorado — the "City of Gold".

Next: an interview with President Janet Jagan

Lone Ranger in shoot-out over honour



Starr is sworn in at the start of impeachment hearings against President Clinton yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: GARY HERSHORN

Julian Borger in Washington

LIKE SO many other great American dramas before it, it was played out in the panelled chambers of a packed committee room. And as in the days of McCarthy or Nixon, an elemental conflict deep in the national psyche unfolded amid the jostling press and whispering lawyers — a cultural struggle between two Americas.

Kenneth Starr, the minister's son raised in the Texas Church of Christ, sat before the House judiciary committee to list President Clinton's wrongdoings in a mild but unforgiving drawl — a representative of an upstanding, God-fearing middle America horrified by the libertine ways of the Clintons.

The other America, multicultural and sexually tolerant, sat above and to the right on the Democratic benches of the committee. That America was represented most forcefully by three black politicians and Barney Frank, the Capitol's most prominent gay, who subjected Mr Clinton's inquisitor to a blistering denunciation.

They portrayed him, as the White House has done many times before, as a zealot (the Puritan Lone Ranger as a newspaper phrased it yesterday) prepared to twist the boundaries of his mandate in his search for sexual wrongdoing in the White House.

With his finger pointing straight down at the judge, the committee's senior Democrat, John Conyers, accused Mr Starr of "crossing [the] line into obsession". He had sent his investigators to grill the 24-year-old Monica Lewinsky without allowing her to see her lawyer and ridiculed her for asking for her mother. The zealotry, Mr Conyers suggested, might be spurred by the big tobacco clients his former legal firm had served, and by his loyalty to his supporters among Mr Clinton's opponents on the far right.

Mr Starr diverted his investigation to the Monica Lewinsky scandal in January this year, shelving four years of fruitless enquiry into financial scandals.

Mr Conyers said the special counsel's embrace of the Lewinsky affair was out of a "sense of desperation in the face of the evidence of a failed impeachment enquiry".

Mr Starr sat stone-faced, his bespectacled eyes and pursed mouth set in three downward crescents. His response was to draw breath and, in the manner of a schoolteacher not about to be distracted by unruly pupils, glance down at his papers, blink and press ahead.

> How could this adulterer and liar be so much more popular than Starr himself?

The next two hours and 12 minutes constituted a summary of the Starr case against the president, arguing that Mr Clinton had orchestrated an illegal cover-up of his affair with Ms Lewinsky.

This time, however, there was no sex. There would be no television clips of the austere judge talking about oral or phone intercourse or even cigars. In fact, as one of his assistants had pointed out to Washington journalists the evening before, the squeamish Mr Starr had wanted such details excluded even from the written report, but had to bow to the legal arguments of his subordinates.

Yesterday, in the sombre surroundings of the committee room, the focus was on lies. The president, he pointed out, "had taken an oath to tell the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth".

He went on: "By making false statements under oath, the president, the chief executive of our nation, failed to adhere to that oath and to his presidential oath to faithfully execute the laws."

Mr Starr's style was unapologetically grey. After all, this was a man who played tapes of US political speeches to his children on family holidays, and whose idea of a good time is to cruise around the American countryside with his wife at the wheel, while he reads legal texts.

The only time emotion entered his voice came towards the end. It was a declaration of love for the law, and Mr Starr seemed almost to choke on his emotions.

"The phrase on the facade of the Supreme Court — 'Equal Justice Under Law' — and the inscription inside the justice department building — 'The United States wins its point when justice is done its citizens in the courts' — are more than slogans. They are not slogans. They are principles that the courts in this country apply every day."

It was this devotion to the law, he suggested, that might be at the heart of his phenomenal unpopularity.

"For my part, my experience is in the law and the courts. I am not a man of polls, public relations or politics — which I suppose is patently obvious by now. I am not experienced in political campaigns," he said.

It might have been titled the Manifesto of a Humble Lawyer, an apologia for a profession even more hated in the US than politics or journalism.

It sounded tinged with jealousy and bewilderment. How could it be that this adulterer and liar could be so much more popular than himself in a country he had given his life to serve? How could this dedicated judge be so harshly judged? Mr Starr glanced up at the committee as though in search of an answer. But no answer came. The tables had turned and Mr Starr's America was on the defensive.

> **Starr bursts**
>
> **We (the office of the independent counsel) go to court and not on the talk show circuit. Our record shows that there is a bright line between law and politics, between courts and polls. It leaves the polls to the politicians and spin doctors.**
>
> **For my part, my experience is in the law and the courts. I am not a man of polls, public relations or politics, which I suppose is obvious at this point.**

Now Clinton comes under fire from Osaka housewife

The president was peppered with questions but the Lewinsky scandal has barely changed Japan's view of him, writes **Jonathan Watts** in Tokyo

THE Monica Lewinsky scandal followed President Bill Clinton across the Pacific Ocean yesterday when he was harangued on Japanese television for his infidelity with the former White House intern.

In a town-hall meeting filmed just hours before impeachment proceedings were to begin in Washington, a Japanese housewife asked the president how he had said sorry to his wife and daughter.

"I could never forgive my husband for such an act," the Osaka woman said. "How did you apologise to Mrs Clinton and Chelsea, and did they forgive you?"

"I did it in a direct and straightforward manner and I believe they did, yes," replied a chastened-looking president. "But that's really a question you could ask them better than me."

It was Mr Clinton's shortest answer during the hour-long meeting in Tokyo in which he fielded questions from 130 members of the Japanese public. It was also the only reference to the scandal and TBS network presenter Tetsuya Chikushi swiftly changed the subject.

Such treatment illustrates Japan's views of the Lewinsky case. Although the salacious details have been followed with as much fascination here as anywhere else in the world, most people believe the scandal is a storm in a teacup.

According to a poll by the TBS network, 53 per cent of Japanese people said the scandal had not changed their image of Mr Clinton. More than 10 per cent said their admiration had increased because of the courage he had shown in confessing.

The Japanese government has also gone to great lengths to demonstrate that the threat of the president's impeachment has not changed their perception of Mr Clinton's status. Tokyo is keen to ensure that the proceedings in Congress do not overshadow his two-day visit, which comes at a time when Japan is under international fire for its failure to revive its economy.

In a warmer-than-usual welcome, Mr Clinton became the first incumbent US president to visit the imperial residence yesterday, when he met Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko.

Mr Clinton showed no signs of concern about the impending meeting of the House judiciary committee. Aside from the reference to the Lewinsky case, he fielded most of the questions during the townhall meeting in a mood bordering at times on ebullience.

He said he enjoyed being president so much that would have run for a third term if it were not forbidden by the constitution, though he also admitted that sometimes he wanted to escape from the pressures of office.

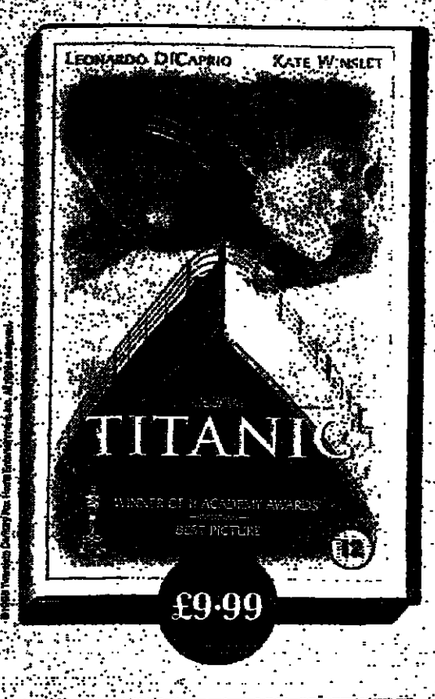
Asked how he would like to be judged by history, Mr Clinton said: "I would like to be remembered as a president who restored American confidence and opportunity, as the president who prepared my country and the world for the 21st century."

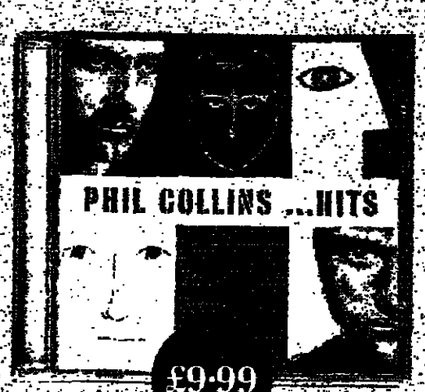
No one in the audience was impolite enough to mention the impeachment proceedings or the possibility that future generations might look back at the Clinton presidency in a very different light.



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Mourners wail over the bodies of nine Christians who were murdered in their family home. 'The black magic has ended' was daubed in blood

Murderers blame use of black magic for killing family of Christians

Ismail Khan in Nowshera, Pakistan

MOURNERS shouting anti-government slogans buried a family of nine Pakistani Christians yesterday who had been found with their throats cut and anti-black magic slogans daubed in blood in their home.

Police guarded the funeral procession in the northern town of Nowshera, about 30 miles east of Peshawar, where hundreds of Christians paid their respects to the family of John Bhatti, a 70-year-old retired army sanitary worker.

The killings of the five males and four females, including two aged under 10 and a baby, occurred just days after a call by the prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, for the introduction of instant Islamic justice as meted out by Afghanistan's Taliban militia.

Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto blamed Mr Sharif's attempts to make *sharia* law a cornerstone of the constitution.

She called the deaths a "dangerous manifestation of Sharif's policy to fan religious frenzy".

"The black magic has ended," was written in blood on the walls of the family home. A neighbour said Mr Bhatti practised black magic and made large amounts of money. But a son who was out at the time of the killings, said: "There was no black magic." — *Reuters*

British origins may keep poll winner out of office

One Nation senator 'not real Australian'

Christopher Zinn in Sydney

THE only candidate from the rightwing One Nation party to win a seat at Australia's recent election is facing a court challenge that could prevent her from entering parliament, because she may not have fully renounced British citizenship.

Heather Hill, who has lived in Australia for 26 years but became a citizen only last May, has been caught out by a High Court ruling requiring foreign-born candidates who stand for election to fulfil complex naturalisation requirements.

According to legal experts, candidates must not only attend a naturalisation ceremony, but also take all reasonable steps to renounce their original citizenship. In the case of Britons, this involves filling out documents in an embassy and handing over their passports.

Australia's constitution does not allow subjects or citizens of a foreign power to hold political office.

Ms Hill, who was elected to the senate in October and is a close friend of One Nation's populist leader Pauline Hanson, claimed she was being picked on because she was a loyal white Anglo-Saxon.

"I am sure that if I was Chinese or Vietnamese then no one would ask these questions," said Ms Hill, who is due to take up her seat next July unless she is ruled ineligible.

The challenge to her seat comes from Bill O'Chee of the National Party, the government's junior partner. Mr O'Chee, the first federal politician of Asian origin, lost his seat to Ms Hill at the election.

"It's up to her to prove she has not been masquerading as an Australian," he said. "She won't be able to prove that she never renounced her British citizenship.

"This is an example of One Nation lying to the electorate," O'Chee said in a radio interview.

In highlighting the section of the constitution which states that an MP or senator cannot be a subject or citizen of a "foreign power", Mr O'Chee has opened the way for other representatives to be challenged about their eligibility for political office.

One Nation has claimed that at least seven MPs hold dual citizenship and several more could be eligible for citizenship of other countries through parents or grandparents.



One Nation's leader Pauline Hanson (left) with Heather Hill, who was elected to the senate in October

Ms Hanson, who lost her seat in the election, said she was confident that the One Nation party would not lose Ms Hill's seat. In the event of a recount, she said, the party's number two candidate could be returned as senator.

"There are a few others in the House that do have dual citizenship," she said. "I'd like each one to be asked individually, are they just Australian citizens or do they hold dual citizenship."

Ms Hill said she was on safe legal ground and had taken all reasonable steps to remove "my British linkage".

"I am an Australian citizen, my children were born in Australia, I pay Australian taxes," she said. "I have done everything as per the book."

A spokesman at the British High Commission in Canberra said he could not reveal details of Ms Hill's status because of privacy rules. But he said Britons who decided to become Australians became dual citizens unless they paid a £300 fee to renounce their former citizenship.

There was doubt last night whether Mr O'Chee would be allowed to proceed with his challenge to Ms Hill's seat, because of the implications for government MPs who fall foul of the ruling.

"They [One Nation] are always looking for an Asian scapegoat, but they can't blame Asians for this one," Mr O'Chee said. "This is a problem of their own making."

George Williams, a senior lecturer in constitutional law at the Australian National University, said the ruling against dual citizenship appeared to be unequivocal.

"Ignorance in this area is no excuse. The law is clear — you must take steps to renounce that citizenship," Mr Williams said.

The Australian electoral commission has called for a referendum to change the complex requirements for nationality and has the backing of many MPs, but it could come too late for Ms Hill.

Cannibal chutney a matter of taste

Fiji Islanders don't have much appetite for a novelty reminder of their unsavoury past, writes **Catherine Adams** in Suva

A PAIR of food scientists in the Fiji Islands have come up with a product which some local people find hard to swallow.

"Cannibal chutney" — an idea cooked up by the British and Australian academics — is based on a real recipe for a vegetable relish traditionally eaten to accompany the human meat in cannibal feasts.

Cannibalism was rife in the Fiji Islands for centuries until Christianity became widespread 100 years ago.

Richard Beyer, director of the Institute of Applied Sciences at the University of the South Pacific and co-inventor of cannibal chutney, says the islands will have to rely on such gimmicks, as they struggle to compete in international markets. He said: "Fiji is just a grain of sand in the Pacific Ocean. But smallness can mean you're at the top of the novelty pyramid."

The recipe for the chutney is a secret, but there is evidence that human flesh was often garnished with the borodina, a plant similar to a tomato, to help digestion.

According to one 19thcentury explorer, human meat "stopped the bowels for up to four days". However, borodina is now thought to be rare, if not extinct.

Mr Beyer said: "It doesn't really matter what's in it. It's like visitors to Fiji going and buying a little fork which was originally designed to get the little bits of brain out of the skull. It's a novelty gift in that category."

But some Fiji islanders are unhappy. "I think it's very insulting," said Mela Tora, a 29-year-old office worker. "We are almost in the year 2000. It's time to forget the past."

Daniel Singh, a trade journalist on the national Review magazine, thinks cannibal chutney could dent tourism, the Fiji Islands' most bouyant industry. He said: "Fiji is trying to come through some bad experiences including the 1987 coup, so cannibalism is not something Fiji would like to be remembered for."

> Thigh bones were prized, but the lower people got a hand or a foot to chew on

He also disagrees with Mr Beyer's view that the nation of 300 or so tropical islands will have to rely on novelty products, as the market for its traditional crops like sugar and coconut products gets tougher.

"There's a bounty of natural resources, such as the hardwoods in forests which cover 50 per cent of the islands," he said. "All we need is to get investors to come in."

But others believe the traditions of cannibalism might intrigue the outside world. The shoes of the Reverend Thomas Baker, a white missionary eaten by cannibals in the 1860s, are a popular attraction at the Fiji Museum in Suva. But contrary to popular myth, cooking unwanted guests was not a practice reserved for white intruders.

Paul Geraghty, head of the Fijian Institute of Language and Culture, says cannibalism was a vital part of local warfare and the eating habits were as gruesome as possible to terrify rival chiefs.

"There are accounts of items being removed from the victim while they were alive, like tongues and other parts, and being eaten while they watched. In times of bitter warfare, lower people might get little offcuts like hands and feet to chew on, but it was really the prerogative of the chiefs."

Early travellers provide records of the practice of eating humans, known as "long pig". Eyewitnesses describe human bones and skulls placed in tree branches at the entrance to villages, apparently as trophies.

According to Mr Geraghty, the cuts of meat were similar to pork and were distributed to everyone in the chief's company according to rank. Thigh bones were particularly prized. Heads were discarded. Archeologists have discovered butchered human skeletons and sail needles made of human bone as part of the evidence of the extent of cannibalism.

Doctors hail Christopher Reeve as fundraising superhero

Mark Tran in New York

SINCE a fall from a horse three years ago confined Christopher Reeve to a wheelchair, the 46-year-old actor has harnessed his Superman celebrity status to become a remarkably effective fundraiser for research on spinal cord injuries. In his latest coup, Congress last month approved a 16 per cent funding increase for research at the National Institutes of Health into neurological disorders.

"He is a very charismatic figure who evokes strong emotions," said Gerald Fischbach of the NIH's neurological problems unit. "He's had an impact on many people, including scientists who were involved in this research, and they have increased their efforts."

Dr Fischbach estimates that the NIH budget for spinal cord research will grow to $70 million (about £42 million) next year and to at least $105 million over the next five years from the current $65 million. He credits Mr Reeve for helping to increase funding. The NIH sent out a special call for spinal cord research proposals. "No question it was Christopher Reeve's calling attention to the spinal cord injury community" that triggered the announcement, Dr Fischbach said.

Since Mr Reeve broke his neck in May 1995, he has turned into a tireless fundraiser for research to find a cure for about 250,000 people in the United States and 1.25 million people worldwide with similar injuries. Mr Reeve participates in about four fundraising events a month, travelling with a retinue of nurses and aides and oxygen containers for his ventilator. Using his connections, the former film star borrows planes from people or companies, such as Texaco, the oil giant, and Oak Associates, an investment management company.

He has also tapped his showbusiness contacts to push his cause. Mr Reeve persuaded Walt Disney chairman Michael Eisner to broadcast a two-hour prime-time television special on spinal cord injuries on Disney's ABC network last March and the live show raised $257,000.

The money is making an impact, with researchers reporting more breakthroughs. Mr Reeve has visited NIH laboratories to see the progress firsthand and delights in watching videos or rehabilitating rats scampering about. Scientists hope that, in a few years, treatments now enabling rats to overcome spinal cord damage will be transferable to human clinical trials. They include transplanting cells to grow over the damaged region of the spinal cord and developing antibodies to block inhibitors that suppress nerve regeneration.

"I became president of a club I didn't want to join," Mr Reeve told the Wall Street Journal. "After I came out of the intensive care unit, I began to realise the way it works in this country. We identify with famous people."

Chile boasts first woman general

Elizabeth Love in Santiago

LATIN America now boasts its first woman general. But forget images of a tough officer barking orders to rows of uniformed troops. Mireya Pérez, aged 48, is a petite member of Chile's carabineros who has never made an arrest and whose main experience is overseeing the care of abused children and battered women.

As the head of the Directorate for Police Protection of Family, Ms Pérez oversees 36 homes for abandoned or abused children and prepares court papers for domestic violence cases. In September her office handled 66 cases of child abuse, 3,116 cases of battered women and 180 cases of sexual abuse against women or children.

"Right now we are working on campaigns to try to prevent this kind of violence," said Ms Pérez in a modest office in Santiago. It has been a week since she received congratulations from President Eduardo Frei for her promotion and she is back to the daily routine. "You have to take what comes, like any challenge. You can't let things go to your head," she said.

Feminists seemed unsure whether to congratulate the appointment of the first female general. "While you could say this is a sign of progress for women, she was named for accomplishments in very traditional areas: nurturing and mothering," said Veronica Matus, president of the feminist think-tank La Morada. "Yet it is also true that we are only now becoming aware that violence within the family is a big problem and it is important that the police treat it as such."

Government statistics show that one in four Chilean women suffer domestic violence, ranging from a slap to psychological torment. But women are reluctant to report sexual assaults. The government office for women's issues is attempting to change this.

"Our numbers look pretty bleak. Some 75 to 80 per cent of the cases of sexual abuse go unreported and of those that are reported, only 11 per cent end up in convictions," said Ms Pérez.

A recent Unicef study of 1,500 children aged 12 to 14 showed 60 per cent had suffered some violence. "If we work together with the children, we are preventing them from becoming abusive parents," said Ms Pérez.

Israel crisis ends at last

David Sharrock in Jerusalem

THE Middle East peace process re-emerged from 22 months of deadlock yesterday when Israel's government finally gave the go-ahead for the withdrawal of its forces from parts of the occupied West Bank.

Israeli troop activity was reported last night in the region of Jenin, the northern West Bank city already under Palestinian control, where all the first-phase withdrawal from rural areas is scheduled to take place.

Under the US-brokered Wye agreement, 7.1 per cent of the land will return to full Palestinian control today. It is the first withdrawal since Israel evacuated part of the bitterly divided West Bank city of Hebron in January 1997.

Natan Sharansky joined Binyamin Netanyahu's dissident cabinet faction for the first time yesterday, leaving a minority of seven voting in favour. The prospects rose of early elections or a national unity government.

The new Gaza International Airport is also expected to open today. From this weekend visitors to the emerging state of Palestine will not have to pass through Israel.

Over the next 48 hours 250 Palestinian prisoners, the first of 750 to be released in the next three months, will be freed. Israel claims that only 100 will be "security" — "political" in Palestinian parlance — inmates.

Two Jewish settlements in the Jenin area will now be left surrounded on three sides by Palestinian-controlled territory.

Another 2 per cent of land will be given Palestinian civil control while Israel maintains control over security. By the end of January Israel will have handed over 13 per cent and granted full Palestinian control to a further 14 per cent. In three months Palestinians will have self-rule in almost 40 per cent of the West Bank.

None of the new land has strategic importance and is sparsely populated, but yesterday's cabinet decision is symbolically far-reaching.

It confirms the irreversibility of the Oslo peace train and its vision of a new Middle East, forged between Israel's Labour party and Yasser Arafat's PLO.

And it ends the "Land of Israel" vision cherished by the rightwing leadership, most of whom are still within Mr Netanyahu's Likud party.

Mr Netanyahu has had to abandon the promise to halt Oslo and prevent the creation of a Palestinian state.

Cabinet clearance yesterday confirms that Israel is satisfied with the Palestinian Authority's fulfilment of security commitments, a process which is being wetnursed by the CIA.

But the greatest irony is that Mr Netanyahu no longer has a majority in his fractious coalition cabinet and is dependent on the goodwill of the opposition Labour party for not just the pursuit of the Wye accord, but the survival of his government.

Only Mr Netanyahu's weakness — a meagre 61-59 majority in the Knesset — prevents him from expelling the National Religious Party, whose two ministers voted against Wye in the Knesset.

The Hebrew daily newspaper Ha'aretz yesterday quoted a series of Likud heavyweights in favour of inviting Labour into the government. Foreign minister Ariel Sharon, a notorious hawk who has proved himself once again to be a pragmatic Zionist at heart, told Labour Knesset members: "You have to join the government. I always said that and I still do."

But Labour leader Ehud Barak says a national unity government is not on the cards. He is convinced that he will win the next general election. The recent local government election results have bolstered his belief, but most political commentators and analysts disagree.

The real reason for Mr Barak's reluctance is that he has already had secret talks with Mr Netanyahu on forming a unity government, but the prime minister leaked the details at a moment he thought would improve his own poll standing.

Somalis face famine again

Without international aid nearly 300,000 people will starve early in the new year

David Gough in Xuddur, Somalia

FOR the second time in six years the dark spectre threat of famine hangs over war-torn southern Somalia, for the second time in six years. The United Nations World Food Programme, which has been monitoring a deteriorating situation since early this year, says as many as 300,000 people are at imminent risk of starvation.

Edward Kallon, the WFP's programme co-ordinator for Somalia, said: "The situation is critical and WFP has no option but to divert all available resources to saving lives in Bay and Bakool."

Mr Kallon added that if the international community did not act immediately, there would be severe famine in the area early next year.

Bay and Bakool, the traditional breadbasket districts of Somalia, are worst hit, with food shortages brought on by the civil war, which has displaced a large number of people. Floods early in the year, which washed away thousands of acres of crops, and the failure of recent rains have combined to worsen the crisis.

This area was worst hit by the famine of 1991-2 which killed 350,000 people. Operation Restore Hope, a military intervention led by the United States, was designed to ensure safe distribution of food aid, but ended in expensive failure.

Since 1991, when the dictator Mohammed Siad Barre was forced to flee the country, Somalia has been without a central government and is ruled by militias who fight each other for regional control.

Like the famine in southern Sudan, Somalia's food shortages are mostly manmade. "We are very worried by the parallels that we are seeing with the Bhar el-Ghazal region of southern Sudan this time last year, as well as the Somali famine of 1992," said Brenda Barton, an information officer with WFP.

The town of Xuddur, the largest in Bakool, was captured by the Rahawaya Resistance Army (RRA) on October 29 following three years under the control of Hussein Aideed's Somali National Alliance (SNA) militia. Most of the 25,000 inhabitants fled when the SNA arrived, and have spent three years in hardship in the bush nearby.

News of the RRA's capture of Xuddur spread fast and hordes of refugees as far away as neighbouring Ethiopia have arrived back in the ruined town in the past three weeks.

A United Nations security and food assessment mission this week found people with no livestock in an area where little or no cultivation has taken place for three years.

For the time being people are surviving by eating wild plants, but once the limited supply of seasonal vegetation runs out they will be in a desperate situation.

Habiba Abdullahi, a war widow at 20 years of age, left her two young children with friends in the Ethiopian refugee camp of Doolow, where they have been living for the past three years, and walked for eight days to reach Xuddur.

"I was very happy to hear the news that Xuddur had been recaptured and wanted to rush home immediately," she said, as she sat outside a tea shop, eating from a bag of bitter tasting leaves that she had gathered that morning.

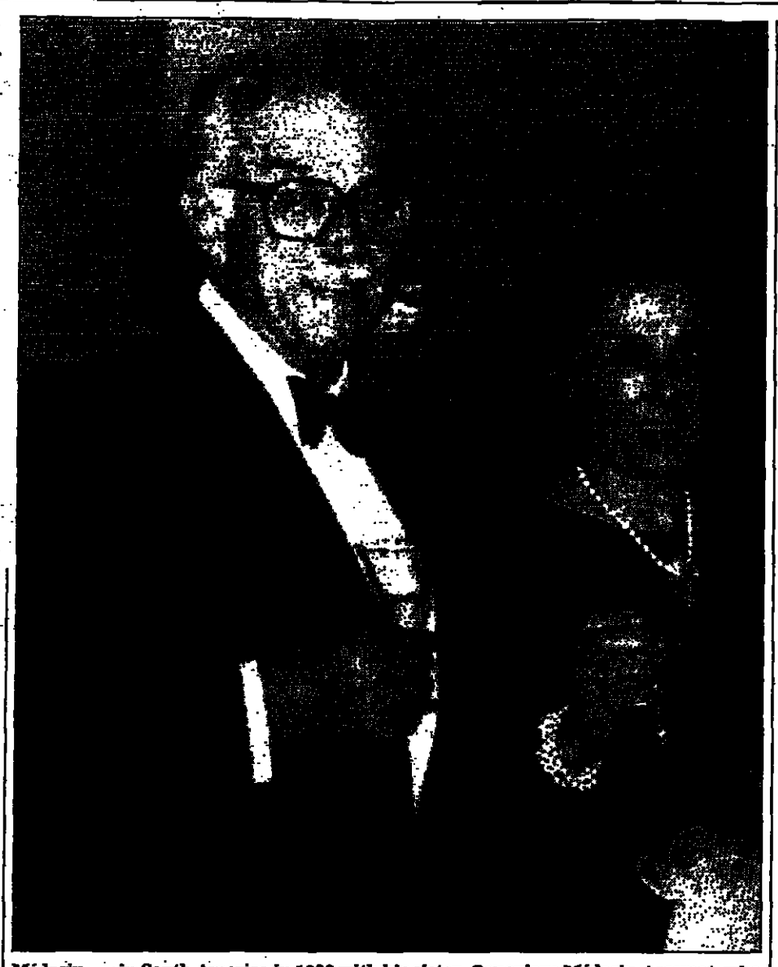
"But now that I have arrived I am very worried to see that there is so little food here. If I bring my children back, what will we eat? Please tell the world that we are hungry."



صكذا من الاصل

Jacques Médecin

Nice work if you can get it



Médecin . . . in South America in 1990 with his sister, Genevieve Médecin-Assemat, who ran for office to keep the family name in politics after her brother was deposed

JACQUES MÉDECIN, known as *Le Grand Jaquou* during his 24-year reign as mayor of Nice, who has died aged 70 in Uruguay, left France after serving a jail sentence for corruption. He had ruled the Riviera resort like a hereditary fiefdom before his conviction and succeeded his father, who had been mayor for 37 years.

On the news of his death, the present mayor, Jacques Peyrat, a former member of the National Front, now a senator and a member of the Gaullist opposition, announced that prayers should be said, that flags in Nice would be flown at half-mast, that all those working for the municipality would observe a minute's silence, and that Médecin's funeral would be held in the cathedral.

This surprised most people in France: some said it was because the present mayor is dependent on the support of those who used to vote for Médecin. But it is rather the reaction of a local community which was loyal to its mayor for 24 years and was not put off by the evidence of corruption which caused him to flee Nice twice — and landed him in prison for some 672 days. It is as if they reacted to prove the dictum of the famous mayor of Lyons, Edouard Herriot, that in France everything divides the state and unites the commune.

Médecin's birth coincided with the election of his father, Jean, as mayor of Nice. When he died, Jacques succeeded him in 1966, and the following year was also elected deputy for the Alpes-Maritimes.

Until then he had led a somewhat unsettled life. He studied law, but took no degree; he worked occasionally as a journalist; he became associated with certain ministers in the Fourth Republic, but never worked with them for long; he was something of a playboy and a well-known figure in the society of southern France, particularly after his marriage to Jacques Fath's famous mannequin, Claude, by whom he had two daughters.

But when he became mayor Médecin became hard-working and serious. Politically, he realised that he could not remain in the purely local party of his father and he moved closer to Giscard d'Estaing. His two enemies, as he saw them, were the Gaullists and later the socialists. Having supported Giscard in the presidential elections of 1974, he was invited by the then prime minister, Jacques Chirac, to be minister for tourism, but resigned after quarrelling with Chirac's successor Raymond Barre.

In Nice Médecin had the support of those who had voted for his father; he increased this by launching a vast programme of development aimed at making the city the California of Europe. As tourism developed and commerce flourished, growing prosperity was associated with him. French settlers from the newly-independent Algeria were well received in municipal and police offices, and became another source of loyalty. Médecin, at least in those early years, also earned praise by his concern with maintaining the historic parts of the city.

HOWEVER, to modernise Nice in particular, and the department of the Alpes-Maritimes in general, he established a system soon called "Médecinism". It consisted of a series of networks, each of which took responsibility for various aspects of development. Some of these networks were separate from the municipality and soon became involved with particular interests and enterprises. This led to corruption, to the enrolment of doubtful personalities and groups, and eventually to gangsterism.

Médecin claimed that certain of his friends abused his confidence and started to take actions that he knew nothing about. His apologists have blamed what happened on his second marriage in 1979 to Ilena Jay Graham, an American, who persuaded him to spend more time in Miami and Los Angeles. Médecin was sometimes absent from Nice for several weeks running, and it was supposedly then that the mischief took place.

Whatever, there were also two important political factors: one was that Médecin drew nearer to the National Front; the other was the victory of the socialists in 1981 and the appointment of a number of ministers hostile to Médecin and 'Médecinism'. It was claimed that what was happening in Nice was a national scandal with international repercussions. Graham Greene, who lived in Antibes, wrote a book, *J'Accuse*, denouncing it and talking of "the connivance of high authorities". Médecin's answer that Greene had had to find a subject — and had invented one — was not acceptable.

Some contracts with American firms were scrutinised and the affairs of the Nice Opera House attracted attention. From 1985 there were a series of prosecutions, and it was clear that the whole paramunicipal organisation was being examined. The minister for the budget, Michel Charasse, a close friend of President Mitterrand, made no secret of his hostility to Médecin.

IN 1990 the mayor fled to Uruguay. He claimed that the socialists had plotted against him and arranged things so that he seemed guilty of corruption. He also accused his associates of having deceived and betrayed him. More spectacularly, as he announced that he intended to live permanently in Uruguay, he displayed a large and valuable house by the beach, with eight bathrooms and five bedrooms. He said he had bought this as a result of the sale of 100,000 t-shirts in Latin America. He also announced that he had acquired a third wife, who was Uruguayan.

The French government brought extradition proceedings and, having spent nearly a year in a Uruguayan prison, Médecin appeared in court in Grenoble; he was jailed for 10 months. On release he returned to Uruguay, although proceedings against him continued in France. In March, 1998, he was sentenced, in his absence, to two years' imprisonment for non-payment of taxes.

Médecin believed he was the victim of plots — plots by Gaullists, Giscardians, socialists and by the media. He would have been pleased, if not surprised, to learn that, on the news of his death, there were those in Nice who claimed that had he been a candidate, he would have been re-elected mayor. He is survived by his second wife, Ilene, and the two daughters of his first marriage.

Douglas Johnson

Jacques Médecin, politician, born May 5, 1928; died November 17, 1998

Monica Baly

The lady of the lamp

MONICA BALY, who has died aged 84, managed to combine her passion for nursing with her passion for history in a career which brought academic rigour and respect to the study of the history of nursing. As she herself said in the foreword to her influential 1973 book, *Nursing And Social Change*, "the development of nursing is like weaving a cloth ... only by tracing the threads to their historical origin can we begin to understand the confusion and profusion of health services in the 20th century".

Monica Baly qualified as a nurse at the Middlesex Hospital in 1938, and she kept in contact with her training hospital throughout her career. Even in her last year, every week she would travel from her home in Bath to London to spend the day in the hospital basement working on a history of the Middlesex.

Disillusioned with hospitals after the war (during which she served with the Princess Mary Royal Air Force Nursing Service), she realised that most ill-health was due to social causes not disease, and so decided to study public health at the Royal College of Nursing (RCN). A nursing activist even as a student, she drew up a "cost-of-living index" for newly qualified health visitors to demonstrate how their first year's salary was impossible to live on.

This experience representing student nurses soon became useful when she returned to the RCN in 1952 as western area officer, a post she occupied for 24 years. Travelling around to visit nurses in her small car, Baly covered a huge patch, including south-west England, South Wales and the Oxford health regions. Settling in Bath's Royal Crescent, she was an elegant hostess and continued until her death to starch her damask dinner napkins, and cook in batches, for days before the arrival of her guests.

As one of the RCN's very first regional representatives, Monica's task in the early days of the NHS was a tough one. Many hospital management committees refused to negotiate with the college, and it was an uphill struggle recruiting new members to the RCN. Yet for many of the isolated nurses she visited, Monica embodied a confidence and commitment to the profession that they had never come across before. She was an inspiration, and her powerful negotiating skills were increasingly used nationally. In 1960 she masterminded the amalgamation of the Royal College of Nursing with the National Council of Nurses, and later, in 1972, she was responsible for organising the RCN's parliamentary campaign Raise the Roof, which resulted in a 22 per cent pay increase for nurses.



Baly . . . weaving a cloth

When Baly retired from the RCN in 1974 she embarked on what was effectively a second career. Already an author, nursing lecturer and examiner, she discovered the Open University, and by 1979 had completed a history degree. Under the supervision of Brian Abel Smith, and with the support of the Florence Nightingale Council, she went on to obtain a doctorate from the University of London for her research on Florence Nightingale.

Perhaps unusually for a nurse, she rejected many of the accepted interpretations of Nightingale's contribution and returned to the letters and other writings to reassess her reputation as the founder of modern nursing. Deified by the nursing profession, and cast forever as the kind but passive "lady with the lamp', Baly's 1986 book, *Florence Nightingale and the Nursing Legacy*, painted a more balanced picture, demonstrating Nightingale's influence not just in nursing, but in many other areas of public life.

In her own way, Baly advocated and developed the role of the nurse-historian. She set up and became the first chair of the RCN History of Nursing Society and persuaded the college to establish a nursing archive with a full-time archivist. She fought tirelessly to change the study of the history of nursing from an amateur concern to the professional discipline it is today. She understood that studying the history of nursing cannot happen in a vacuum, demonstrating how the nursing historian must scan the whole social fabric of a period in order to make sense of nursing's contribution.

She was made centenary fellow of the Queen's Nursing Institute in 1985 and a fellow of the Royal College of Nursing the following year. In her final year she had been working to increase the number of women and nurses included in the new Dictionary of National Biography. It seems fitting that shortly before her death she completed work on Florence Nightingale's updated entry.

Yet although she was fascinated by nursing's past, she was also optimistic about the future. Shortly before her death, she remarked to a friend that the nursing care she received had made her proud of the profession: "They are all the things we thought nurses should be".

Christine Hancock

Monica Baly, nurse and historian, born May 24, 1914; died November 12, 1998

David Jones

Telling it like it is

THERE are, a diplomat once advised David Jones, who has died aged 56, two sides to every question. "Yes," came the reply, "right and wrong."

It was a typically Jonesian situation. He was within days of shooting the most important film of his career and was being asked to cut something he fancied, or to insert something he didn't. Was it crucial? Probably not, but he wouldn't do it. What was typical was that his battle was with someone who had the power to fire him. "Can I tell him you'll think about it?", tried the diplomat. "You can tell him I have thought about it", said David. "Why risk the whole film over something as minor as this?", the diplomat tried again. "It's not about this", came the reply. "It's about how people use power."

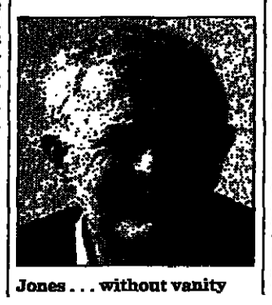
Within weeks of leaving the Glasgow Herald city desk and joining Granada Television as a researcher in 1972, Jones became a face in the north-west, presenting and reporting for local programmes. He was very good at it — direct, funny, and without vanity.

He became the figurehead of a small group of programme makers who began to experiment with local programmes, looking for a new tone of voice. Briefly, in the mid-1970s, they found it. Jones's versatility was crucial to them. He was a wonderfully sympathetic interviewer of the lowly, a scourge of the elevated and also capable of glorious foolishness.

He tired of being on screen and, after a brief spell on *World in Action*, went freelance in 1979. The next 10 years were a rich period, resulting in dozens of network documentaries — mostly for Central Television and the BBC's *40 Minutes* slot. Particularly tough were his three-hour exploration of schizophrenia and his exposé of the Salvation Army, both for Central in the early 1980s. For the latter, David went undercover, became a down-and-out and lived life in hostels in order to testify to their realities. He was consistently the medium through which those in trouble found a voice.

During the same period, he also returned to full-time print journalism. At Granada he had been a lively columnist for the financial pages of the Observer. Committed to the notion of a decent, left-wing — and preferably subversive — Sunday national, he became a key figure on the short-lived News on Sunday, and for a few months was its editor.

He switched to television drama at the end of the 1980s and produced Alan Bleasdale's *GBH*. For all his anarchy, David was level-headed — his programmes never went over budget — and he kept that chaotic enterprise together from pre-production to final cut, without ever compromising its essential lunacy. His next venture was four movie-length films for Channel 4 from writers new to television.



Jones . . . without vanity

David Jones made many friends. His habit of tweaking noses made him a few enemies, too, always among those more powerful than himself. His greatest source of satisfaction was his wonderfully unruly family, Susanna, whom he married in his last year at Manchester University, three daughters, two sons and three grandchildren.

Steve Hawes

David Ward Jones, journalist and producer, born May 27, 1942; died September 22, 1998

Vincent Winter

A true child of the cinema



Babysnatchers . . . Winter, aged five, is comforted by screen brother Jon Whiteley in The Kidnappers CORNEL LUCAS

FEW child stars had the endearing appeal of Vincent Winter, who has died aged 50. As a five-year-old, he won the hearts of adults and children alike in Philip Leacock's 1953 film classic *The Kidnappers*. He played the younger of two Scots boys who, denied a pet dog, "borrow" a baby to look after instead.

Whether discussing with co-star Jon Whiteley what the tot should be called — young Vincent's character is in no doubt it should still be "Rover" — or in his heart-felt appeal, "Don't eat it, granddaddy, it ain't fittin!" when the gruff grandfather makes off with the baby, Winter was always natural. "Cuteness" was something of which he could never be accused, nor was there any of the simpering coyness often associated with child actors. So convincing was his performance in *The Kidnappers*, he won a special Academy award for "outstanding juvenile performance."

If later films failed to deliver the same quality of role, Vincent's likeable, open style lent presence to such diverse subjects as *The Dark Avenger* (1955) with Errol Flynn (who liked the boy so much he wanted to adopt him), *Time Lock* (1957), as a child trapped in an airtight bank vault, and *Gorgo* (1960), where he movingly found compassion for the sea monster of the title. His performance in this latter film was widely praised in America and, still in his early teens, he was taken up by Walt Disney to play in a number of successful productions, including *Greyfriars Bobby* (1960) and *The Three Lives Of Thomasina* (1963).

After the release of *The Horse Without A Head* in 1964, Vincent began looking for more mature roles and grew disenchanted with what was being offered. Disney producer Hugh Attwooll encouraged him to widen his range, suggesting he look at the more technical side of film-making.

So, at 19, he began a second career as runner on *The Fighting Prince Of Donegal* (1966). Always a quick, instinctive learner, he found work variously as an assistant director, production manager and production supervisor. High-profile films with which he was involved included *The Sailor's Return* (1978), *Superman II* (1980), *The Dark Crystal* (1982), Kenneth Branagh's *Henry V* (1989) and *The Wind In The Willows* (1996). Recently he had been involved on a project with American director Taylor Hackford, and only last month was in Turkey for consultation talks about the building of a new studio.

> 'Cuteness' was something of which he could never be accused

Vincent never felt any urge to return to acting, but in April this year he got a happy reminder of the affection the film business felt for him — he was called back to Hollywood to be photographed in a group shot of Academy Award winners. Warmly welcomed, he was particularly thrilled to find the likes of Gregory Peck, Dustin Hoffman and Richard Dreyfuss, all long-time fans of *The Kidnappers*, taking their turn to meet him. At his hotel, dozens of people waited all night to get his autograph.

Away from the cameras, Vincent enjoyed a game of bridge. He loved to travel, and had a particular fondness for Mexico. A caring, thoughtful man, he was always happy to welcome old fans to his office at Shepperton Studios, where he would regale them with tales from his career.

One particular story he enjoyed telling was from his days as a production assistant on *A Clockwork Orange* (1971). Director Stanley Kubrick was famously parsimonious with transport and part of Vincent's job was to see the actors got their fair share of the cars. Tired and tetchy at being kept waiting after a long day's shooting, Malcolm McDowell teased him with "Not very good at your job, are you, Vincent". "Oh, yes, I am," retorted the usually modest Winter. "I'm also rather good at yours — and I've got an Oscar to prove it!"

Vincent is survived by Barbara Harley, his partner of 24 years.

Tim Read

Vincent Winter, child star, film production supervisor and assistant director, born December 29, 1947; died November 2, 1998

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

LAURENCE GANDAR, the subject of an obituary notice, page 24, November 18, was not Laurence Gander, the spelling used in the heading, caption and other places. Apologies to his family and friends.

APOLOGIES also go with nearly all the following:

IN A report, headed, The historic handshake, page 6, Guardian Education, November 17, we referred to Tina Ferry, of NASUWT Scotland. This concealed from most readers the identity and sex of Mr Tino Ferri, a national executive member for the NASUWT in Scotland.

WE MISSPELT the name of Stephen Rea in a heading on an article, G2, pages 12 and 13, November 18, about the play, *Northern Star*, which he is directing in Belfast.

NICHOLAS SARTER, of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, mentioned in a panel on page 3, Society, November 18, is in real life Nicholas Barter.

THE REV Roger Royal, referred to in an article about after-dinner speakers, page 9, G2, November 16, is really Roger Royle.

DAVID SPILSBURY, not David Spilsbury, was the author of an item in Notes & Queries, page 17, G2, yesterday.

THE PLAYWRIGHT quoted by Byron, quoted in a column, page 20, November 17, was Ben Jonson, not Ben Johnson.

"JAMES DUDLEY, 14" who gave his view of the Prime Minister in Let's play politics, page 8, Society, November 18, says he is James Dudley, 15.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail should be sent to The Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

A Country Diary

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: Jackdaws noisily disputing their territorial rights to a visibly crumbling brick chimney, which stands above a roof of traditional Cotswold stone tiles, are a regular morning spectacle as the November sun lights up the Tetbury roofscape. The black spectral figures rise into the air from the roof ridge to the west of us, flapping angrily and squawking as they try to reclaim what can only be a nesting site — and which they do not actually need for some months.

Against a blue, winter sky, with mellow limestone below, it is almost a medieval scene, enacted every morning high above our courtyard garden. This garden is itself of some historic interest, for we back onto the Malthouse, a building which is now in community use, but which during the second world war was used by the US 6th Army. In May 1945, the large open space of the floor of the Malthouse was used by military technicians to construct a three-dimensional panoramic model of the stretch of French coastline that became known as Omaha Beach, and Churchill and Eisenhower came to Tetbury to view the representation which, a month later, would become one of the most vigorously resisted of the invasion beaches.

The war leaders arrived in Tetbury by train, something that is no longer possible, and walked up Gumstool Hill from the now defunct station after their steam train journey on the branch line from Kemble. With luck, this branch line may see a new lease of life as a cycle track to Cirencester in the not too distant future. They approached the Malthouse through its back door, which is in our garden, and this historic bit of Cotswold stone, which now hosts brownies and play groups, played a part in the successful military planning of the invasion.

We can look out of the kitchen door to the cobbles over which these famous feet trod at momentous times in our destiny.

COLIN LUCKHURST

Birthdays

Michael Alexander, explorer and writer, 78; **Lord (Peter) Archer of Sandwell, QC**, former Labour minister, 72; **Gareth Chilcott**, former England rugby player, 42; **Alistair Cooke**, journalist and broadcaster, 90; **Bo Derek**, actress and model, 43; **Richard Francis**, art historian, 51; **Nadine Gordimer**, novelist, 75; **Dulcie Gray**, actress, 78; **Penelope Hobhouse**, horticulturist, 69; **Aubrey Jones**, former Conservative minister, 87; **Piara Khabra**, Labour MP, 74; **Johnny Leach**, table tennis champion, 76; **Kate Reardon**, fashion editor, 30; **Steve Smith**, athlete, 21; **Jeff Tarango**, tennis player, 30.

Death Notices

BOULTON. Rev Canon Peter H, suddenly on 17th November 1998, aged 72 years. Funeral Requiem in Southwell Minster, Wednesday 25th November at noon. Family flowers only, an offering will be taken for the Central American Hurricane Appeal, payable to Tear Fund. Enquiries to DJ Hall, Funeral Directors, 01636 812481.

To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4707 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

Comment

Diary

Simon Bowers

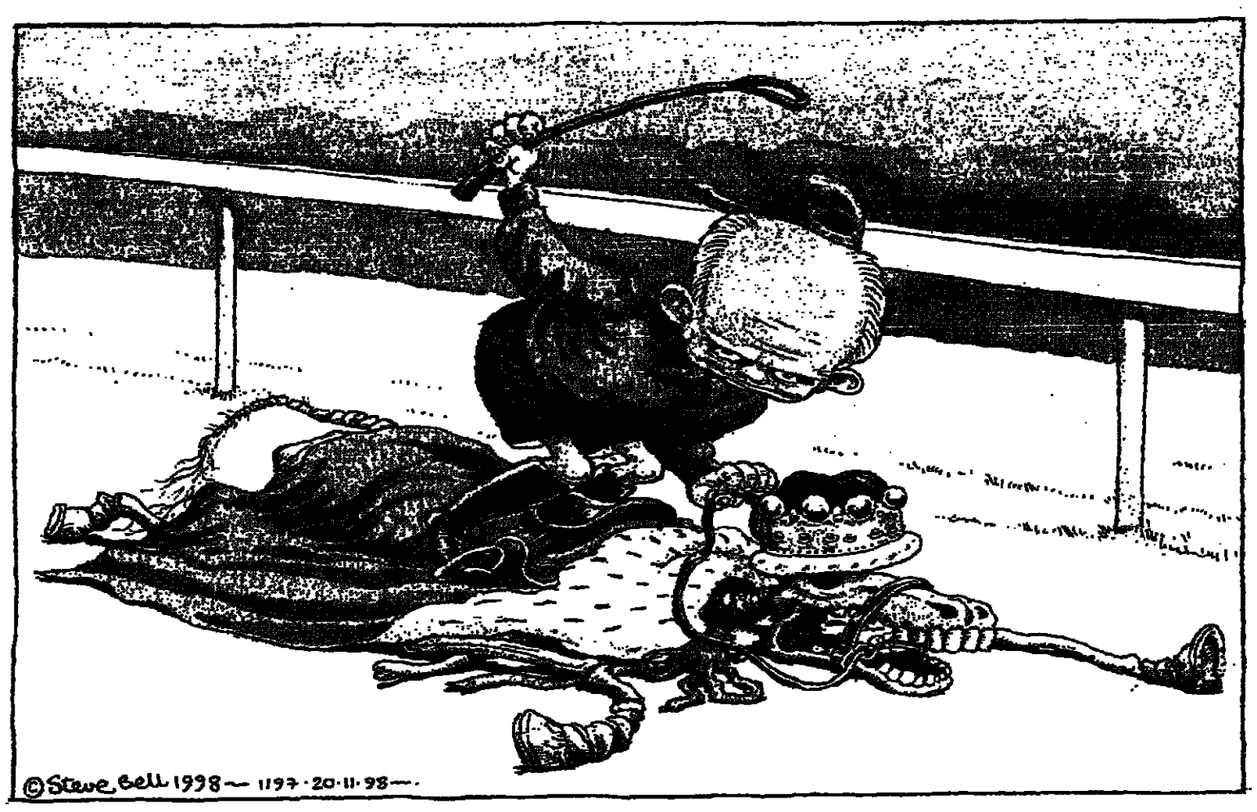
AT Tuesday's inaugural meeting of Labour's restyled NEC the party's general secretary, Margaret McDonagh, stressed the need for a united front, you recall, when she proposed a draft code of conduct. A party spokesman said: "They didn't feel it was an attempt to gag them. It was merely an attempt to set out some guidelines as to how they should work together collectively." Yet a lone voice is already proving a threat to committee unity. Someone calling herself simply "Margaret" spent Wednesday ringing around Blairite committee members trying to arrange a clandestine factional meeting. Whoever this joker "Margaret" is — and she does, by all accounts, have a splendid sense of humour — she had better stop this meddling now.

JACK Cunningham is again in trouble over office refurbishments. This time it is his £2million sprucing up of Admiralty Arch to house cabinet office civil servants which has come under fire. Despite promises to the contrary earlier this year, this means that the building won't function as a winter refuge for the homeless as it did in 1997. However Dr Jack will no doubt find it in his heart to provide an alternative shelter — for the duration of the goodwill period only — for those currently sleeping rough. In August, you may remember, we reported that the eight-strong staff of the cabinet enforcer's private office most graciously agreed to vacate its vast room in Whitehall for him to inhabit in privacy.

CONGRATULATIONS to Paul Johnson who, despite being incandescent with rage, manages to lace his Daily Mail column with brilliant touches of self parody yesterday. Geoffrey Robinson's humiliating apology to the Commons, it seems, was not enough to satiate Paul's appetite for retribution. Naughty boys, as we all know by now, must be punished thoroughly. The focus of Paul's bile is his onetime friend Mr Tony, the PM: "He wants to keep the blood off his hands. He cannot bear to inflict pain on colleagues," fumes Paul, "He likes to use the sword of power, but the axe of dismissal is too heavy . . . He is, to quote Shakespeare, 'infirm of purpose'." However, Mr Tony, all may not be lost: "It is not too late to turn back. The country is waiting — it is eager — for the smack of firm government." Better put, Jonners, it could not be.

IT is stomach churning to learn that one of Prince Charles's good friends (and ours) — a Highgrove birthday guest last Friday no less — was, on the very day Charles married Diana in 1981, on a booze-fueled awayday protest trip to Boulogne. The villain was, we are sorry to say, Mr Mandy Mandelson. Nevertheless the Mail on Sunday's Joe Murphy and Chris McLaughlin dispatched their duty commendably last week when they brought attention to a photo of this motley band of republican cronies. (Harriet Harman, Sue Nye and Jack Dromey were notable fellow travellers.) The trip, Murphy and McLaughlin insist, was nothing less than "a leftwing stunt dreamed up as a calculated snub to the royal family and the flag-waving throng who waited for hours for a glimpse of Charles and his bride". Sadly there wasn't room for the whole group photo to appear in the paper so, in a typically selfless act, comrade Chris McLaughlin, an enthusiastic member of the gang not mentioned in the article, gracefully agreed to be cropped out.

GOOD luck to 73-year-old lottery winner Marjorie Longdin from Tickhill, south Yorkshire, who is to appear on the quiz show Call My Bluff. Here's a practice round for you: "Portillo": is it a) a flat case containing important government documents; b) an over-priced junk market in West London; c) a mobile toilet; or d) a nasty young bully who's going to eat your nephew for breakfast just as soon as he can get re-elected?



We all believe in democracy – er – as long as we get what we want

Decca Aitkenhead



DEMOCRACY performs the function God used to serve; it's the big thing everybody believes in. The left, though, likes to consider itself more democratic than everyone else, and history by and large supports its claim. But as universal suffrage served the left's own ambitions for power, we can never be too precise about the point where principle ended and self-interest began. Just as the church used to cite God on its side in pursuit of its own more venal interests, so we know that all politicians will try to advance their cause in the nobler name of democracy. Democracy is both a pure ideal and a grubby backhander, and for a long time we have been happy to accept it as both.

This subtle understanding has been unsettled by Tony Blair. All politicians affect hammy distaste for cynicism, tribal politics, petty point scoring and so on; they all lament the silly pointlessness, and the cost to democracy. We expected Blair to say all this, and with the routine insincerity — but he said it so much, it's almost as though he might mean it. Stranger still, he put his mandate where his mouth was. No sooner had he won a landslide than he set about giving his power away — to Scotland and Wales, to big city mayors, and to proportional representation.

He looked like a schoolboy socialist's dream — the leader of the left whose selfless devotion to democracy exposed his enemies as unprincipled cads. When hereditary peers — hereditary peers! — thwarted his electoral reform, invoking the name of democracy, they looked grotesque. Were it not so offensive, the whole affair would be funny, for the old boys have certainly got a nerve. Blair, on the other hand, now claims to have something like a halo, and the Number 10's spin this week declared him the patron saint of democracy.

But the halo slips on the slightest scrutiny. The issue of closed lists was democratically dubious at best. De-selection of MEPs considered off-message does not look so democratic, nor does the selection process for candidates to the Scots and Welsh assemblies. Rhodri Morgan, Dennis Canavan and Ken Livingstone would have things to say about just how devolved devolution really is, and it is not unreasonable to wonder whether Blair would be so eager to reform the House of Lords if hereditary peers were his most fanatical supporters. Blair's famously democratic internal party reforms had the happy consequence of consolidating his own power, and the nature of PR's introduction to Westminster will depend entirely on calculations of self-interest. Just this week, Labour was accused of ballot rigging over the future of grammar schools. Parents will be asked to vote on a motion which is virtually incomprehensible, and does not even mention the words "grammar school", because Labour believe this will secure the desired result.

When the Prime Minister is making a fetish of democracy, such contradictions provoke shrill indignation. This response was inevitable — but it is not clear that it is necessarily right. In practice, most of us are disgracefully inconsistent about democracy. I don't like grammar schools, so I am glad that the ballot will be rigged against them. I do want Ken Livingstone to be mayor of London, though, and so I'm unhappy about the vetting panel. Few of us are even consistent when we talk about what representative democracy should mean; we expect government to reflect the democratic will of the people, but the people would have hanging back tomorrow if they could, and I'd much rather that they couldn't.

Livingstone loves to cite the will of the people to support his right to run for mayor, but when he was running the GLC and giving money to militant lesbians, he ignored the people's outrage and simply said he was right. Indeed, it is often the left which passes progressive policies that the people take decades to come to terms with. An ICM poll this week found that 68 per cent of people are against the swift removal of hereditary peers' voting rights, but the government will take no notice. Does

> God doesn't stop priests sinning — or governments bending the rules

this undermine their claim to a democratic halo?

I don't think it tells us a single thing about their democratic credentials. We are all implicated in the contradictions, for there is no such thing as a disinterested love of democracy in politics. So there is no point attacking Blair for being inconsistent, or for putting self-interest before democracy. Just as a belief in God didn't stop priests sinning, so democracy doesn't stop governments bending the rules — so long as they can get away with it.

What they can get away with is the key. We don't require our politicians to be democratic saints — the voters who elected Labour expect Blair to act in their interests in whatever way he can, and would be extremely put out if he handed power back to the Tories in a fit of democratic piety. What we require is that our politicians be sophisticated enough to pass off self-interest respectably. We are complicit in the pretence, but for us to collude they must make it credible, and Labour are failing to do so. The Lords debacle was a gift to Blair, and his fine talk on devolution is impressive, but it will not be enough to off-set his heavy-handedness elsewhere, and he is mistaken if he imagines that it will.

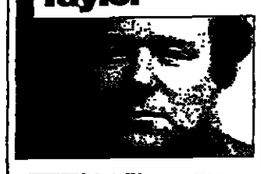
For Blair's democratic crusade to be plausible, it will have to look like it is sometimes to his disadvantage. I'd like him to let Livingstone run because he thought it was fair, but it's more important that he does so because he grasps the strategic necessity; similarly, instead of squealing at party managers about democratic principle, critics should be urging canny self-interest. This may appear unprincipled, but there is virtue in it. Democracy is not safeguarded by reference to some pure, abstract absolute. It is protected by the necessity of governments being able to get away with only so much.

It is naive to ask Labour to be consistent, and disingenuous to expect it to act with disinterest. It is better to ask that they construct a half-decent illusion of selflessness, and are sophisticated enough to make the necessary sacrifices. When a government loses sight of that balance it is doomed, and all the ballot rigging and vetting panels and electoral reform in the world will not keep it in office.

Shayler's release proves we must end the mania for secrecy

Silliness in Spookland

Richard Norton-Taylor



TWO intelligence men — one from MI5, the other from MI6 — are now on the loose in Europe, free to reveal all sorts of allegations about dirty tricks the British agencies have been up to. They were arrested by French police while on the run from the British authorities and then freed, on the grounds that at least one of them was, in effect, a political prisoner.

Heaven knows what Britain's friends and and enemies think of the spectacle.

Whitehall tears its collective hair, drawing some comfort that there are not more "bad apples" as they are euphemistically described, among the 4,000-odd people employed by the two intelligence agencies.

One tactic is to rubbish things the renegades say, of course — especially such embarrassing allegations as the claims by the former MI5 officer, David Shayler, that there was a plot to assassinate the Libyan leader, Colonel Gadafy, and by the former MI6 officer, Richard Tomlinson, that Britain drew up plans to kill the Serbian President, Slobodan Milosevic.

But not everyone seems to be convinced that they are making it all up. Tomlinson, now living on Geneva — a well-known nest of spies — was recently interviewed by the Swiss police about his claim that MI6 had an agent in the German Bundesbank. The Swiss said their approach was on behalf of the German police.

Matters of a pecuniary nature were discussed in the course of a four-hour interview. The Swiss, according to Tomlinson, added that the Libyans and Serbs would also like to meet him. Tomlinson declined the offer.

And MI5 and MI6 do not disguise their serious concern about what more the pair could reveal.

THERE is plenty more Tomlinson could say about highly sensitive operations in the Middle East and Shayler has not yet revealed the contents of detailed documents he smuggled out of MI5, including an analysis of Libya's links with the IRA over a period which included the 1994-96 ceasefire.

They may never speak. The point is that the threat is there. It could have been avoided, not just by a more sympathetic management — as the recent report by the parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee suggested — but by a less draconian Official Secrets Act and by more grown-up and consistent ways of vetting disclosures by former security and intelligence officers.

The 1989 Official Secrets Act, attacked by present cabinet ministers when they were in opposition, imposes an absolute, lifelong duty of silence. Motives are irrelevant, since there is no public interest defence. The act makes no distinction between what disclosure would be damaging and what wouldn't.

This is certainly liable to challenge under the European Convention on Human Rights, now incorporated into British law by the Human Rights Act. Shayler's defence team told the Paris court which on Wednesday rejected the Government's extradition that it was incompatible with Article 10 of the Convention covering the right to freedom of expression. Though this right is not without conditions, the European Court of Human Rights has persistently ruled that these must be proportionate. Britain's OSA is absolute.

And in its Spycatcher ruling 10 years ago, the court established that injunctions against the media imposed by the English courts — where judges usually genuflect as soon as Whitehall hoists the flag of "national security" — are not worth the paper they are written on if the information has already been published in other countries.

Jack Straw has himself sanctioned disclosures which, on the face of, breach the Official Secrets Act. In 1997, he authorised the disclosure of Shayler's claim that MI5 was warned about the bombing of the Israeli embassy in London in 1994 and bungled its intelligence operation.

> The Americans do it. The British, so far, just make fools of themselves

Though the Home Secretary denied MI5 could have prevented the bombing, he drew a distinction between "fair criticism" of the agency and disclosures that would actually damage national security. Despite blanket injunctions, the British media have now published a series of allegations made by Shayler and Tomlinson, sometimes after contacting Government lawyers and Whitehall officials.

It is time for a credible system and sensible law, consistently applied, that would enable journalists and former spooks alike to break the outdated taboo surrounding the work of the security and intelligence agencies. The Americans manage to do it, with a system of approved publishing. The British, so far, just make fools of themselves.

You British must get rid of your restrictions as to which airlines can fly across the Atlantic. It is keeping prices too high

Open the skies

Philip Lader

AMID the vast range of Anglo-American co-operation, there is a surprising anomaly in US-UK economic relations. We are among the world's strongest advocates of free trade and competition, yet our aviation relationship is among the world's most restrictive.

This, from an American's perspective, is unfortunate and unwise. Aviation is the circulatory system of the global economy. Yet the arteries between the US and the UK are clogged with restrictions on routes, frequencies, fares, and the number of carriers serving a particular airport.

British and American consumers, our business, our airports and our cities deserve better. We should reach an "open skies" agreement as soon as possible, bringing new competitors, more routes and lower prices to transatlantic travel.

Some observers contend that British Airways' decision to rethink its planned alliance with American Airlines now makes a US-UK open-skies agreement unlikely. But are we then to be left with an indefinite extension of the status quo?

A status quo that allows only four airlines — two British and two American — to link the UK's largest airport, Heathrow, to the US? A status quo which precludes other UK airlines from competing in the transatlantic market? A status quo that means Virgin may not fly without approval to Las Vegas, or that BA may not be able to transport sports enthusiasts directly in 2000 to Salt Lake City's Winter Olympics? A status quo that is unnecessarily costly for British businesses? To most Americans, this impasse is unfathomable. The current situation may be seen to benefit some fine companies — United and American Airlines as well as BA and Virgin — to the extent that a protected market at Heathrow ensures higher yields. But passengers and

> US air fares have dropped 40 per cent. But fares to London are rising

the public interest must come first.

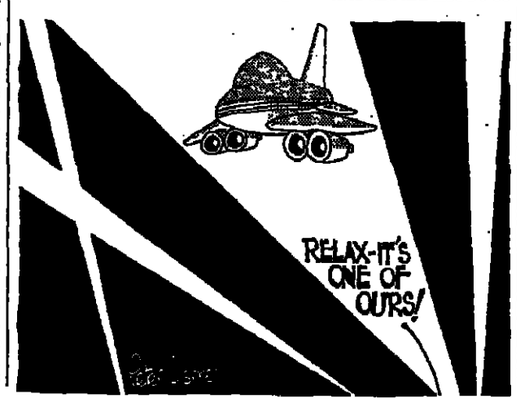
Our two nations should conclude an agreement that eliminates the restrictions on the number of carriers serving individual transatlantic city pairs; that removes the limitations on carriers at Heathrow; that permits the marketplace to influence fares more directly; and that allows new entrants to fly new passengers on to Asia, Europe, or the Middle East.

Such an agreement would help businesses control travel costs in possibly harsher economic times. It would generate additional revenues for airport. It would add new jobs to cities with new routes. And with far-sighted management, our airlines, incumbents and newcomers alike, would realise significant long-term opportunities.

These advantages are not hypothetical. Deregulation has led to inflation-adjusted US air fares dropping an average of 40 per cent in the past two decades. Within Europe, the EU's own open-skies liberalisation has led to the entry of British Midland and other firms, with fares dropping 20 per cent or more even in heavily-travelled, high-yield, business-class markets. And across the Atlantic, analysts estimate that overall average US-London fares are higher than those between America and other large European cities such as Frankfurt and Paris. Moreover, they are increasing, while the price of travel to other European cities in open markets is actually declining.

UK-US agreement on open skies should not be so difficult. We already have the framework, one which 31 other countries — including 13 European states — have already signed with the US. And we initialled a similar agreement with Italy just last week.

Let me not appear to make light of serious issues of appropriate concern to British policy-makers and airlines' shareholders. One question that continues to divide us, for example, is the degree of government control over pricing to prevent "predatory practices". This is an important area that deserves careful attention, but we believe we can reach agreement to provide a more competitive environment benefiting consumers and the airline industry. We need to build an aviation relationship for the 21st century.



Philip Lader is US ambassador to the UK

هكذا من الاصل

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'Cannabis hemp fibres are longer, stronger and better suited for making workwear'
Russell Cronin, Letters

The right to be wrong

The Commons must win

THE "ping-pong" battle between the Government and the House of Lords has been gripping, certainly better than an ordinary game of table tennis. Normally the spectator chooses which player to root for and then cheers them on until they win. But in the row over Labour's plans for the European elections, nothing has been so simple. The friend of democracy has not known where to turn, switching between Lords and Commons to work out who has right on their side. For this is one of those murky cases where both sides are wrong — and right.

The first flaw is in the Government's bill. It wants next June's Euro-elections to be conducted under proportional representation, a welcome change we support. But it has insisted on a "closed list" system, allowing voters to choose only a party label, not an individual candidate — leaving the selection of would-be MEPs in the hands of the party bosses. This kind of centralisation breaks one of the cherished features of our democracy, namely the link between elector and elected. Under Labour's proposed system, our representatives will owe their place not to the voters, but to the apparachiks who granted them a high place on the list. That's why Roy Jenkins came out in favour of open, rather than closed, selection in his much-lauded report on voting reform last month: that "the voter should be able to discriminate between the candidates" was essential for the "extension of voter choice." On the substance of this proposal, the Tories are right and Labour is wrong. The trouble is, Labour has a right to be wrong. It commands a majority in the House of Commons, thanks to winning an electoral mandate. The bills it passes enjoy a democratic legitimacy which trumps the objections — however sound — raised by the wholly undemocratic second house. And this is the flaw in the Tory case. Conservative peers are resisting an anti-democratic measure, closed lists, by anti-democratic means: their built-in, permanent majority in the House of Lords. Much as we may wish Labour had never proposed this specific move, all democrats must insist upon the ultimate power of the elected Commons to have its way. To do otherwise would grant a chamber chosen by birth and patronage a veto over a body chosen by democratic election. That cannot be right.

Two courses of action flow from this constitutional tussle. First, one of the two sides must blink. Labour could make this an issue of principle — defending the primacy of the Commons — and use every weapon in its armoury, including the mighty Parliament Act, to ram through its proposal. But it would be a great tactical error to make closed lists, of all issues, the battleground on which to fight the hereditary peers. For on this question, almost uniquely, the Tories could claim to be the defenders of democracy, with the Commons as the threat. If Labour wants a showdown with the Lords, they should have it over a Bill which enjoys wide national support which would expose the true, undemocratic nature of the upper house. But this is not that issue. Instead, Labour might have to give way and shift to open lists. Alternatively, the Tories could step aside, having made their point, and bow to the greater democratic argument that insists the Commons must always have the final say. For their own sakes, this would probably be the wiser course. In the longer term, the obvious answer is a reformed, democratic upper chamber. Such a body could then perform the revising function whose necessity this episode has dramatically highlighted, and perform it with legitimacy. Labour is in the business of extending democracy: both closed lists and an unelected second chamber stand counter to that goal. The Government should ditch the pair of them as soon as possible.

Danke, Gerhard

We all need a nuclear rethink

GERHARD SCHROEDER'S coalition has made a welcome decision to pick the nuclear weapons issue as the first area for change in foreign policy. In most democracies the subject has been so demeaned by cheap barbs impugning the loyalty or masculinity of those who question the conventional wisdom that serious debate is nearly impossible. The German government now contains a healthy contingent of Greens who have never hidden their disquiet over nuclear weapons. In their long opposition years the Social Democrats also had some creative thoughts on defence. In power the two parties want Nato to abandon its refusal to pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. At the United Nations last week, Germany also persuaded Nato's other non-nuclear members not to oppose a vote calling on the nuclear states to remove the warheads from their missiles and thereby cut the risk of accidental launch.

As Nato prepares the new strategic doctrine it will adopt on its 50th anniversary next April, these are valuable moves. During the Cold War Nato kept the option of "going nuclear" because the Warsaw Pact had superior conventional forces. Now, against a depleted Russian army, even assuming Nato could again find itself at enmity with Moscow, its rejection of a "No First Use" pledge no longer makes sense. Unless it is based on inertia, todays's reluctance has other causes — though they too need discussion. One is the American desire to make Nato a global instrument operating beyond its European origins and without a United Nations mandate. The other is the growing tendency to see nuclear weapons as a device against states which use or threaten to use chemical and biological weapons (CBW). The United States is developing "earthquake nukes" able to penetrate underground bunkers to destroy CBW laboratories and stocks. Last week's Iraqi crisis was the sort of scenario which could have led to the first use of nuclear weapons since 1945.

It is true that the threshhold between biological and nuclear weapons has narrowed. A germ warfare attack on a city could kill half a million people, possibly more than a "tactical" nuclear weapon. But using nuclear weapons is still a psychological leap into a black hole, with one weapon leading to another in a fatal escalation. Keeping them to counter CBW also makes it hard to hold the non-proliferation line. For breaking the taboo on these issues Germany deserves international support.

Dumbing the news

ITV is making a digital mistake

THE scrapping of ITV's flagship News at Ten programme (authorised yesterday by the Independent Television Commission) will result in a diminution of public service broadcasting and may even turn out to be a mistake in commercial terms. ITV wants to replace it with news bulletins earlier and later in the evening to expand its programming flexibility in a digital age of proliferating channels. ITV is losing viewers at 10pm whom it wants to keep with more films and popular programmes — even though its 5.5 million News at Ten regulars constitute a huge audience that far exceeds the circulation of any newspaper. If, as likely, it results in a decline of up to 2 million watching serious news at night, then citizens will be that much less well-informed. That will lead to a significant tabloidisation of broadcasting that is at odds with the public service obligations ITV is supposed to uphold.

Nor will it necessarily make sense commercially. David Gordon, former chief executive of ITN, wrote in the Financial Times this week that the mid-evening competition between the BBC and ITN raised the standards of broadcast news and that when it ends a large chunk of the audience for news will migrate from ITN to the BBC giving the latter (currently trailing in the popularity stakes) a bigger base of up to 7 million from which to attack the post-watershed audience.

Does ITV realise what a strong and popular "brand" News at Ten is? It has become part of the biorhythms of the nation. Once lost it will be difficult to win back. It's a bit like Coca Cola dropping its name because of increasing competition in the cola market. ITV argues that programming needs to respond to the hundreds of channels thrown up by the digital revoution. But in the digital revolution — including the Internet — strong brands are more important than ever as beacons to guide people in the dark. If the new digital channels — or even the BBC — snatches the News at Ten for their own, ITV will have no one but itself to blame.

Letters to the Editor

Luvvies, ladettes and laureates

THE continuing story of star actors heroically working for a pittance on the London fringe is all getting a bit much (Theatres boosted by star attractions, November 19). Ewan McGregor might be working for £250 a week but Hampstead Theatre has an exemplary track record of generating productions that are then taken into the West End by a commercial management. When this happens, salaries are renegotiated and a star name will expect a salary massively in excess of the original. What would be far more revitalising for British theatre would be star names taking roles in regional productions with little potential for commercial exploitation.
Phil Hyde.
Great Grimsby, N E Lincs.

RICHARD Marks isn't entirely correct (Letters, November 19). Billy Bragg's A13, Trunk Road to the Sea has been committed to CD. It may be found on the disc devoted to Billy Bragg in The Peel Sessions series on Strange Fruit Records. I am not an incipient anorak (honest!). I'm just a nostalgic Essex girl far from home.
Helen Jones.
Huddersfield.

THE problem encountered by Whaen
Re the laureate sought for the Queen
And the rhyming of "corgi"
Is soon solved by "Porgy"
And Bess adds historical sheen
Jennifer Lane.
Birmingham.

WHILE I share the general contempt for hereditary peers, on this issue they are in the right. With closed list elections, we would still have Portillo, Hamilton and Mellor.
Tom Freeman.
Oxford.

Labour's 'liberal' values

POLLY Toynbee (Death to the tribal war, November 18) gives a list of the "liberal creed", which, she claims, both Labour and the Liberals share. One might wonder whether she has really kept up with events concerning Labour's "creed".

For example:
- "A presumption in favour of the underdog" — the continual crawling to the CBI does not warrant this claim.
- "Belief that all human beings are redeemable" — tell it to Myra Hindley.
- "Trust in reason over heritage, custom and superstition" — Blair's continual crawling to the monarchy hardly justifies this assertion.
- "Remember history will judge most wars unnecessary" — in a week when Blair threatened to blow ordinary Iraqis away.
- "Strive for equality of opportunity" — we still have public (eg private) schools and grammar schools.
- "Strive for level playing fields between men and women, workers and management, old and young" — women still, on average, earn less than men in similar jobs. As for workers and management, since when do workers get the chance to sack the management when the company fails to perform whilst giving themselves huge wage rises?
- "Regard sex and family life as no business of the state" — Was Ms Toynbee on holiday when Jack Straw commended "normal" family life?

G Peck.
Luton.

IT is this forced division into two tribes that led to the Conservative hegemony throughout most of this century. Those people who wish the individual to have more rights than the group chose not to support socialist collectivism.

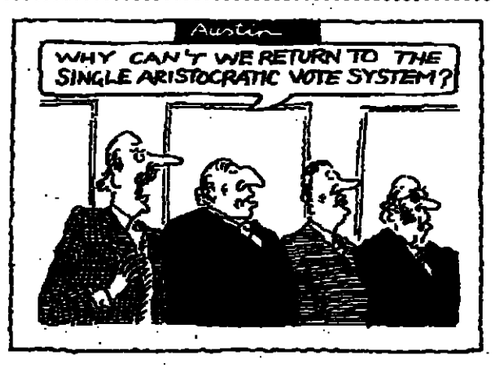
The key distinction between the liberal tradition and that of New or Old Labour is in the treatment of the individual. Liberals see people first and foremost as individuals. The Labour tradition is to see them as members of groups. It is the philosophical background that leads councils such as Birmingham to decide to treat Sikhs and Muslims differently in employment.

Blair, with his illiberal urges for purges, does seem to be creating something akin to the Democrats in the US. This offers no hope for those currently excluded from the system.

We should recognise the multi-dimensional nature of politics and within that welcome the existence of a number of parties rather than reduce it to two tribes.
Cllr John Hemming.
Leader, Lib Dem Group, Birmingham City Council.

POLLY Toynbee does not mention the most important element: a belief in sustainability. This takes us into the most urgent, and necessary, areas of politics, such as a system of taxation that punishes the polluter (rather than capital or labour), and a commitment to energy efficiency and waste management.

The green agenda is not only radical and necessary, it also releases human energies and aspirations. Young people (in particular) want a more sustainable world and, therefore, it can provide politics with much needed relevance to all our lives. These are surely among the core principles of the liberal creed.
Prof Michael Redclift.
Keele University.



Food safety on a plate

YET again events have shown how essential it is for there to be a Food and Drugs Administration similar to that in America, an organisation free from the interests of certain ministries and of manufacturers in the food and pharmaceutical industries.

If it were not for the courage of people like Edwina Currie (Currie attack on 'crass' food safety, November 19), who place the safety of the public before personal gain, we would be unaware of the gross incompetence of some of those charged with looking after public health. An organisation like the FDA should be funded from taxes and report to the Health and Safety Executive. The latter, though currently severely underfunded, would be seen to be free from the fetters of the Ministry of Agriculture (Maff) and the lobbying of the drugs industry.

Parliament must find the time to legislate for the setting up of an FDA if there is to be proper and unbiased monitoring of what we put into our bodies.
Edward Glynn.
Shepperton, Middx.

The prêt-à-fumer collection

YOUR whimsical leader (November 19) suggesting that jeans' manufacturers revert to using environmentally friendly, plant-based dyes instead of chemicals is a good idea. Here's another: why not use environmentally friendly hemp textiles, too?

Levi Strauss cut his first pair of jeans from hempen sailcloth and hemp fabrics dominated the textiles industry until the Industrial Revolution, when technological innovations gave cotton the edge. There is abundant evidence that cannabis was banned in the 1930s not because of its use as a drug, but because its potential as a source of industrial fibre threatened vested interests in cotton and paper.

These days "denim" jeans are generally made out of cotton, a delicate crop that requires fertile land and the heavy application of chemical pesticides and fertilisers to ensure an abundant crop. Cannabis hemp, on the other hand, is a sturdy plant that will grow on marginal land without artificial assistance and produces fibres that are longer, stronger and therefore better suited for making workwear.

The snag is that there is practically no industrial infrastructure to support a renascent hemp industry and this is compounded by the pernicious American-led political war on drugs, which prevents the widespread cultivation of hemp in the Third World countries that could most benefit from it.
Russell Cronin.
London.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters.

Sex appeal

DEBORAH Orr's article on the rights and wrongs of male gynaecologists (Hands out!, November 19) implies that any male considering entering this profession must have somewhat dubious reasons. I have known and worked with a number of gynaecologists, both male and female, and I consider Ms Orr's opinion to be grossly unfair. Quite rightly, the disturbing stories of Rodney Ledward's treatment of women demand further investigation, but for all male gynaecologists to suffer unjustified criticism because of those stories simply compounds the problem.

Women should have the chance to see a female gynaecologist if that is their choice, but they should not be afraid of seeing a male gynaecologist because of a misguided belief that they all enter the profession for their own sexual gratification.

Male gynaecologists are better placed than the male population generally to understand that what lies between our legs is what makes all women the same — and it is what is in our heads that makes us special.
Christine Mahoney.
Staplehurst, Kent.

Is Bingley about to repeat Newbury's costly mistake?

THE complexity of community and ecology in the ancient woodlands at Newbury can never be restored by the planting of new trees and shrubs (Letters, November 19). The trout stream in idyllic untouched countryside at Bagnor, now bridged by an HGV-carrying trunk road, cannot be brought back by an improved filtration system.

The old A34 through Newbury remains as the A339 trunk road, whatever pedestrianisation of the town centre is undertaken. Traffic may continue to use this rather than the bypass because it is a shorter route. I do not believe traffic took an hour getting through Newbury before the bypass. If this were the case, traffic would use the M3, M25, M40 route from Southampton to the Midlands.

To my knowledge no independent survey of the views of residents and businesses in Newbury of the bypass has ever taken place. This road has been a costly mistake. Let us hope lessons can be learnt.
Helen Anscomb.
Newbury, Berks.

TAXPAYERS might well question the extravagance of spending £11.7m per mile on the Newbury bypass. The Bingley bypass approved after the recent Roads Review will cost £41m per mile (£82m for two miles). It destroys a Site of Special Scientific Interest and seriously impacts upon the famous Five and Three Rise locks of the Leeds-Liverpool canal. This road will not solve any national transport problem since it only pushes traffic congestion two miles nearer to Bradford and will damage the village of Saltaire.

Bradford Metropolitan Council never put forward a genuine public transport option during the assessment as the criteria for the Roads Review required.
Richard Butler.
Bingley, W Yorks.

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Good vibrations

Bel Littlejohn

BRRRNG! Brrrng! ... Brrrng! Brrrng! It was the lovely Alastair Campbell on the mobile — "Bel!" he said, "Love the book! Tony was wondering if you could pop round. Do you remember that old Leo Sayer number, When I Need You? Do you, Bel? Well, we need you soonest, Bel! Ciao!"

Alastair didn't tell me. He didn't need to. It was my Feng Shui they were after. When you've been up to here in spirituality for as long as I have (I've been going to the Body Shop for 15 years, for instance) you just know. I've been an expert in Feng for five years, with all the rigid codes of behaviour that implies. I haven't eaten a water buffalo for four years, I'll never place a chest of drawers in front of a fridge and I never travel anywhere without a dead goldfish in my green clutchbag.

"You'll have to get rid of this for starters," I said to Tony the moment I entered his office. I was pointing at a dark grey inbound in the far left-hand corner. Grey is bad Feng Shui, and dark grey even worse.

"But that's Phil Gould!" exclaimed Tony.

"Whoops, sorry, Phil!" I said. "Didn't recognise you from this angle. Have you ever thought of changing colour? Think pink, Phil, think pink!

"Could you give us a couple of minutes, Phil?" said Tony, seeing Phil to the door and closing it firmly behind him. "Thanks, mate."

"Let's get to work, Tony, I said, hanging some beautiful wind-chimes over the door. "No time to waste." At this point, the door opened, setting the wind-chimes tinkling fit to bust. "What the bloody 'ell are those when they're at 'ome?" It was the super John Prescott, hurrying in, portfolio under arm. "If you ask me, they're a safety hazard, no mistake!"

"Stop right there, John!" I said. "I'm sorry, truly I am, but your Feng Shui is way out of line. You mustn't wear stripes on your shirt. They signal a downward economic trend. Bad ch'i. And braces constrict access and may signal electro-magnetic stress, so they'll have to go too."

"Best do as Bel says," said Tony, sympathetically. "Come on, mate — get em off." And Tony began taking off John's shirt while I discreetly removed his red trouser-braces.

IN SECONDS, John was standing there in red Y-fronts, his trousers around his ankles. "Great!" said Tony.

"To be honest," I said, "red signals anger. Green is a more natural, soothing colour for underpants. A Cabinet in green Y-fronts will be collaborative, not confrontational, and that's great Feng Shui, I'm sorry, John, but I'm going to have to remove them."

"No way!" said John. "She's way out of line, Tony!"

"Sorry mate," said Tony, "but we've got to get the vibes right. Alastair can nip round to the Army and Navy for green replacements. What are we, John — XL?" As John cowered behind an armchair awaiting the arrival of his brand new Y-fronts, I turned my attention to the more durable items in the Prime Minister's office. "The ceiling's too high, Tony," I explained. "But if you write poetry in lovely gold lettering all the way around, you could offset the negative vibes."

Tony thought long and hard. "I suppose I could get Noel Gallagher to come up with a lyric," he said. "Something along the lines of his truly memorable 'So Sally can't way, she knows it's too lay, she na na na na'. Sounds pretty positive to me."

"It's b-b-bloody brass monkeys down here!" It was John Prescott, shivering behind the armchair. "C-c-c-could someone light the bloody f-f-f-fire? I'm f-f-f-freezin."

"Sorry, I'll have to put my foot down there, Tony," I interjected. "A coal fire produces what we call "sleepy energy". And we can't have that, now, can we, guys?"

The door opened. It was Tony's lovely secretary, telling him the Cabinet were assembled. "Take a quick look at the Cabinet room, Bel," said Tony. "We've had some upsets recently, and I'd like to iron them out." So the three of us went into the Cabinet room, John draped in a turquoise "throw", lifted off the sofa.

I took one glance. "Sorry, Tony, love, it's a no-no. The table's all wrong. It's an oblong. You need a curly snake." I then pointed at the Foreign Secretary's russet beard. "And I want that dyed green by Monday."

Tough? Maybe. But as Tony says, with bad times around the corner, we've gotta have something to hang on to.

Anglo-German jobs pact, page 15

Tomorrow: Conundrum of Europe's central bank

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
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Fax: 0171-833-4456

FinanceGuardian

British companies lose out after £2bn offer for London Electricity

French trump power bids

David Gow and Nicholas Bannister

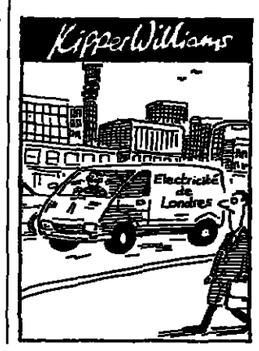
THE French state-owned electricity group, Electricité de France, is poised to win control of London Electricity, with a bid well in excess of £2 billion. It has trumped offers from two UK generators anxious to break into the domestic supply market, British Energy and National Power.

But French victory in the battle to take over London from its present owner, the debt-ridden US utility Entergy, is certain to provoke a political row over British access to energy markets in our nearest continental neighbour and trigger a monopolies and mergers investigation.

British energy firms are keen to expand into Europe, using the expertise garnered from operating in a liberalised market when the Continent's energy supply is opened up to competition from February.

So the prospect of French success, likely to be confirmed before Christmas, has produced ferocious lobbying of ministers and Whitehall officials by UK power companies which are demanding in return that they be allowed into French markets and to export electricity to France through the cross-Channel interconnector.

Cash-rich EdF has captured 7 per cent of the UK electricity-generation market by supplying heavily subsidised nuclear power via the interconnector and would win 2 million customers if it took over



London Electricity. The scale of its bid surprised analysts when final offers were submitted 10 days ago.

The expected outcome will come as a severe disappointment to both British bidders for London — generators keen to gain a captive market of domestic consumers ahead of industry reforms.

Changes to the wholesale electricity market will force them to conclude medium-term contracts with regional electricity companies at predetermined prices instead of using the current system, known as the Pool, which enables them to get the highest price paid for power on the day regardless of their bid.

Consumer groups say the Pool procedure is a recipe for huge corporate profits and excessive prices for consumers. Peter Mandelson, Trade and Industry Secretary, said last month that he expects Pool reform to result in at least a 10 per cent fall in prices.

Entergy put London Electricity up for sale in August, only 17 months after paying £1.3 billion for it during the headlong rush of American utilities to buy British regional electricity companies. But the US firms now are beginning to pull out, particularly after the imposition of the £5 billion windfall tax by Labour. Entergy is under pressure to pay off its accumulated $8 billion (£4.8 billion) debt.

Analysts said this had propelled it towards the "whopper" of a bid from EdF.

One regulatory issue delaying completion of the deal is that The British government is pressing the French to open up the interconnector both ways, creating the prospect that British generators could win substantial contracts, particularly for hard-pressed coal-fired plants.

Another is the gradual opening of the domestic power market to "dual-fuel" packages to supply both power and gas. Industry experts say EdF has "sweetheart" deals with state-owned Gaz de France for cheap gas, which would enable it to undercut UK rivals in the British market.

● The electricity regulator, Stephen Littlechild, yesterday confirmed plans to separate the industry's supply and distribution businesses.

Utility changes 'will remove consumer protection'

Nicholas Bannister and David Gow

ELECTRICITY customers could be left without proper representation and protection under the Government's proposals to reform utility regulation, consumer groups said yesterday.

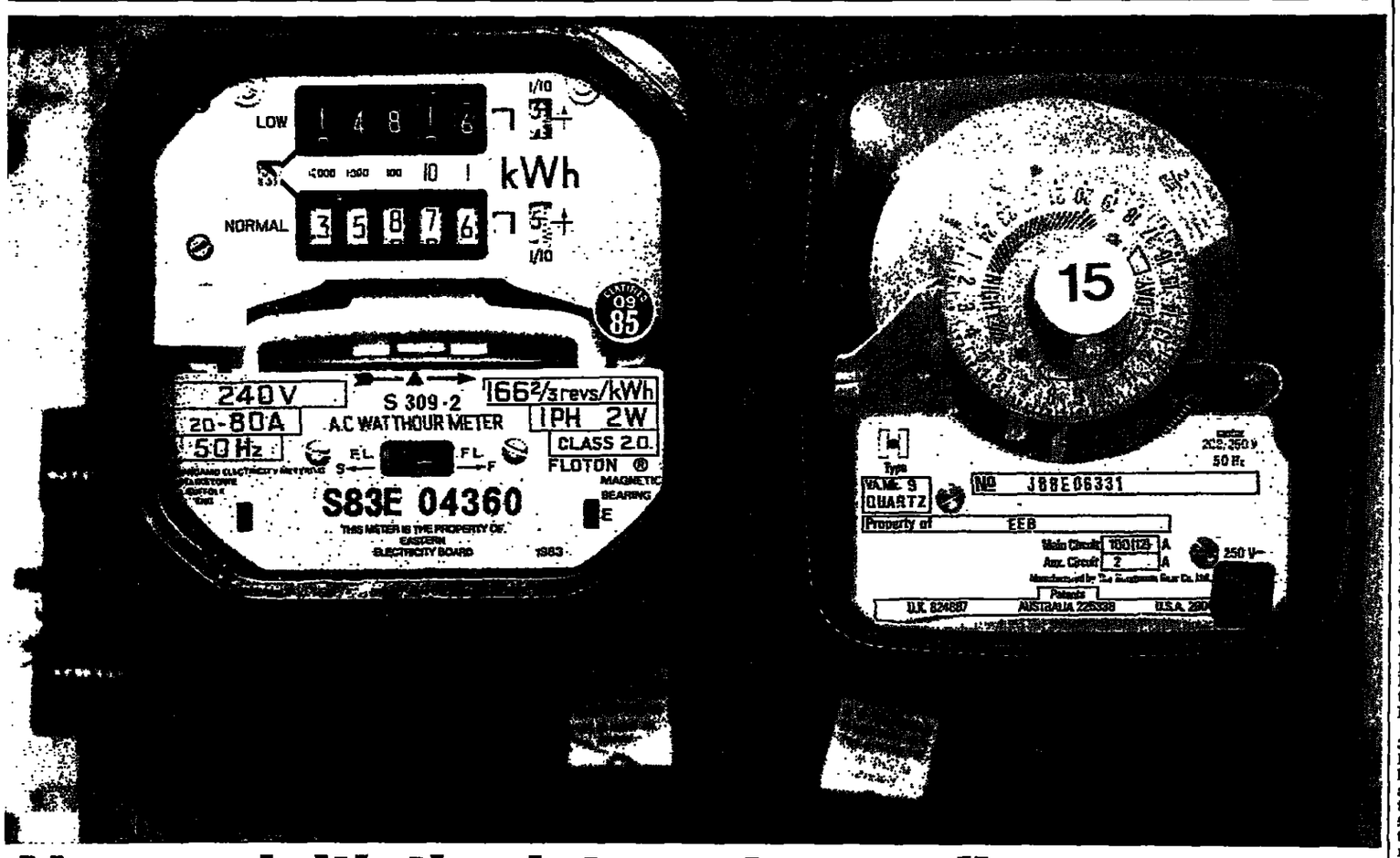
They are concerned that a central national energy council, due to replace the present regional electricity consumer committees, would be unable to handle customers' complaints adequately.

The chairmen of the regional committees, in their annual report yesterday, said: "Consumers will lose out. Consumers need regional consumer representatives with status and authority, able to respond immediately to their concerns and have direct access to influence the decisions of regionally-based energy companies."

The Electricity Consumers' Committees Chairmen's Group is lobbying ministers and civil servants in a bid to prevent the regional bodies from being abolished. Yvonne Constance, the group's chairman, said that by the time a central body got to know about a power cut, it would be too late for them to advise local people on how to seek compensation.

The national water watchdog yesterday also urged the Government to ensure that new bodies to protect utility consumers were given sufficient powers.

Sheila Reiter, chairman of the Ofwat National Customer Council, said: "While we welcome the Government's proposals to set up new independent consumer councils, it is essential that they have a well defined set of functions which is complementary to, but distinct from, that of the regulators. They must be seen as having equal and not secondary status to the regulators. They must be equipped with appropriate statutory duties and powers, and be backed by adequate resources, not only to present a well informed customer view but also to have real influence within the regulatory regime."



Airwave initiative lets meter reading go remote

New technology may spell end of the quarterly visit, writes **Nicholas Bannister**

THE DAYS of waiting in for the man to come and read the gas, electricity or water meter may soon be over. The Radiocommunications Agency has allocated space on the airwaves for utilities to use for automatic meter reading.

Barbara Roche, the Department of Trade and Industry minister responsible for the agency, said yesterday: "Flexible and innovative technologies already being piloted are allowing companies to tune in to read our meters without having to come indoors."

The block of radio spectrum singled out by the agency is suitable for the low-power radio equipment used in remote meter-reading trials.

Anglian Water, which has been testing remote meter reading, welcomed the move, saying that it could lead to variable tariffs. A spokesman said cheaper tariffs could encourage customers to use washing machines and water sprinklers during the night. "The benefit for the company is that you can iron out the peak demand in the early morning and evening," he said.

Its pilot project currently reads meters every seven days, though it is capable of reading them every 15 minutes. The information is gathered from homes over the airwaves by equipment mounted on top of lamp posts. The figures are then fed into the company's own radio data network.

However AccuRead, the company which reads meters for gas supplier Centrica, said it might be several years before automatic meter reading became financially viable.

Hugh Douglas-Pennant, AccuRead's director of business development, said such meters were costly to install. In competitive markets, there was also a problem about who owned the meter if a customer switched suppliers.

He said there were three basic systems for automatic meter reading — a van driving down the road triggering a radio signal from the meter and recording the information; a radio signal from the meter being picked up by a cellular network similar to those used by mobile phones; or a device linking the meter to the traditional telephone line.

"The concept is super but the financial viability has not necessarily been proved," he said. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Jubilee Line contractor accused of dirty tricks

Seumas Milne
Labour Editor

ELECTRICIANS' leaders on the strikebound Jubilee Line Extension yesterday accused London Underground and the site contractor of running a "dirty tricks propaganda" campaign against them, while preparing to sack the 500 strikers and bus in a replacement workforce.

The prospect of escalating confrontation on the crucial rail link to the Millennium Dome was further heightened as the project chief executive said the four-day-old unofficial stoppage could "not be allowed to continue". The electrical contracting firm warned that bringing in a new workforce was now "an option".

London Underground's chief executive, Denis Tunnicliffe, warned that strikes and poor productivity could mean that the £3 billion Tube extension — which is already 18 months late and heavily over budget — might not be completed by next October in time for the Dome's opening.

The current dispute was triggered when the electrical contractor, Drake and Scull, ordered the transfer of 12 union activists from London Bridge to another site after complaints about malfunctioning fire alarms. On Wednesday, LU announced that police had been called in to investigate the sabotage of equipment underground.

Tony Miller, a senior shop steward representing the strikers, said yesterday that the damage — cables had been cut on escalator safety systems — could not have been carried out by electricians because they did not have access to the panels where the cables had been cut. He claimed that the incident was being used as part of a "dirty tricks propaganda campaign" against the electricians.

"They have been trying to provoke the workforce in preparation for a massive attack, because they know they are not going to get the job done in time and they need someone to blame," he said.

Paul Corby, a senior official of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union — which has formally repudiated the illegal walkout — yesterday met stewards representing the electricians and urged them to use established negotiating procedures to resolve the dispute.

An AEEU source said last night that any move to lock out the workers would lead to a major industrial confrontation in an industry where other electricians would be unlikely to cross picket lines and the necessary level of police security would be very high. "Sackings wouldn't get the transport link built," he said.

Mr Miller said that all suggested compromises over the disputed transfers — such as selecting those to be moved on the basis of length of time on the job or asking for volunteers — had been rejected by managers.

But Cliff Mumm, project chief executive, rejected the claim that the dispute was linked to safety and said there were "very real concerns" about the productivity of the workers, who can earn £1,000 for a 66-hour week on the site.

Chris Raven, Drake and Scull's project director, was yesterday quoted as saying this was the "crunch time" for the Jubilee Line Extension. Although "at this stage we don't want to employ people who have to walk across picket lines", he said, "bringing more staff on site is an option".

AEEU officials argue that much of the industrial conflict on the underground extension has built up because of LU's decision at the start of the project not to sign a specific union agreement — as is usual on major construction sites — and to rely instead on market forces and standard industry procedures.

But LU counters that the electricians would have used their industrial muscle in a tight skilled-labour market whatever agreements had been signed.

Notebook

German links prove right



Alex Brummer

THE decision by the London Stock Exchange to throw in its lot with Deutsche Börse in Frankfurt, looks increasingly intelligent. Gradually, all the other major European bourses — with Paris the latest to accept the reality — are coming round to the view that the London-Frankfurt link is the the one that matters to investors and if they are not part of it, then liquidity and investor interest in their own domestic markets will suffer.

The fashion for linking or merging exchanges is catching. London's International Petroleum Exchange is looking towards an alliance with its main rival, the New York Mercantile Exchange, for dealings in crude oil, refined products and natural gas as well as other commodity futures.

The plan is to develop a new joint transatlantic trading platform for energy products. This will be good for the IPE but less than welcome by Liffe, which has been seeking consolidation around the City's markets and arbitrageurs who have profited from IPE/NYMEX differentials.

As far as equity markets are concerned, there is confidence in both London and Frankfurt that there is enough compatibility between the Sets dealing system in London and the Xetra system in Frankfurt for the new trading platform to be up and running on January 4, the first euro-trading day with prices of major stocks quoted in euro. Successively Milan, Madrid and now Paris have recognised that, as investors seek to build euroland portfolios, they will want to buy on a common system, with its own indices in which prices can be compared in euros.

Shares quoted on the London Stock Exchange will dominate the new index, in that the market is deeper, more liquid and has more world-class quoted companies than its rivals. Germany will be the second most important player, followed by Paris and the other European centres — although, like Britain in the euro currency system, late arrival will mean some disadvantage in setting the rules. Dealings on the new euro-platform will probably cover Europe's top 300 equities — those broadly tracked by the Eurotop 300 at present.

The development of a top 300 will, however, pose problems for the shares left behind in local markets. In Britain, the smaller cap stocks, those worth less than £500 million, already have a torrid time. Price-earnings ratios are significantly lower than their larger counterparts, investor interest limited, the cost of capital relatively high and market liquidity is less than satisfactory. There is a danger that the euro-300 will deepen the tendency towards a two-tier system, from which it will be increasingly difficult to graduate.

Housing barriers

ANALYSTS looking for clues to the state of the American economy were greatly encouraged by the October housing-start figures, the best for more than a year. The combination of lower mortgage rates and a higher stock market — increasing the feeling of well-being among US citizens — was enough to create a 7.3 per cent rise in starts. What a contrast with what happens in Britain.

Despite a relatively strong economy over the past few years and firm demand for new housing, the number of units built is firmly stuck at 150,000 and is impervious to all but the most extreme economic conditions.

The insensitivity of the new housing market to the economic and financial climate is largely caused by the regulatory environment. At present it takes housebuilders up to two years to obtain permission to develop a new housing site. Even then, the regulatory nightmare is not over. The brownfield sites which have priority are largely in places where people cannot afford new housing.

Those in the more prosperous and growing parts of the economy, such as the M4 corridor, are owned by former nationalised industries including British Gas and Railtrack. The former is glad to part with its surplus land — except that no one wants it, because of enviromental confusions over clean-up standards. Railtrack, however, manages its own land professionally so that it is sold off in small profitable lots to maximise value at market peaks.

The McKinsey study on productivity, which formed the core of Chancellor Gordon Brown's pre-Budget report, pointed to slow planning processes as one of the reasons why producivity in Britian lags behind that of its Group of Seven counterparts.

Until the Government finds a way of cutting through planning delays, housing production will lag behind demand, slowing the whole economy.

Storehouse slump

THERE is not quite as much drama in the Storehouse six-month figures as at St Michael, nevertheless the trend on the high street is unmistakeable despite the 3 per cent retail profits uplift.

Consumer confidence tumbled in late September and this continued through to mid-November leading Storehouse to report that sales volumes have become "volatile and unpredictable". This is not the smooth run-up to the strongest sales period of the year which the Bhs and Mothercare outfit might have hoped for, and it has issued a profits warning for the full year. The shopping sector appears on a knife-edge.

Strong pound helps set holiday record

Charlotte Denny

EXPORTERS may have cursed the soaring pound last year but the prospect of cheap foreign breaks tempted a record number of UK travellers abroad.

Figures published today by the Office for National Statistics show that Britons made 46 million trips overseas last year and spent £16.9 billion, the highest amount recorded. The average traveller spent £36 a day.

France was the most popular destination for British tourists, attracting 13 per cent of visits, followed by Spain and then the Republic of Ireland.

Central and South America are the new "in" destinations. Visits to the region rose by 25 per cent to 257,000. Much of this was accounted for by a rise of almost 60 per cent in trips to Mexico, which attracted 113,000 visits from Britons last year.

The strength of sterling did force tourists to economise on trips to Britain. Although the number of visits made by foreigners rose to a record 25.5 million, spending stalled at £12 billion, just below its 1996 level.

The increase in spending by UK residents on trips abroad and the slight fall in spending by foreigners resulted in a record travel deficit of £4.7 billion.

Of the 46 million visits abroad made by the British, 29 million were holidays, seven million were business trips and six million journeys to see friends and relatives.

There were five million day trips, 84 per cent of which were to France.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.54	Germany 2.7089	Malaysia 6.37	Singapore 2.69
Austria 19.00	Greece 456.48	Malta 0.61	South Africa 9.32
Belgium 55.97	Hong Kong 12.58	Netherlands 3.0455	Spain 229.33
Canada 2.51	India 71.069	New Zealand 3.02	Sweden 13.17
Cyprus 0.80	Ireland 1.0817	Norway 12.12	Switzerland 2.236
Denmark 10.37	Israel 6.917	Portugal 276.69	Turkey 472,760
Finland 8.327	Italy 2,694	Saudi Arabia 6.15	USA 1.6226
France 9.06			

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هكذا من الأصل

British and German finance ministries to join forces on economic reform and employment drive

Brown in jobs pact



Chancellor Gordon Brown announced the Anglo-German initiative after meeting his German counterpart, Oskar Lafontaine, at 11 Downing Street PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

Mark Atkinson
Economics Correspondent

BRITAIN and Germany last night took the historic step of setting up a joint body to look at ways of creating new jobs and reforming the economy.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, made his announcement about an Anglo-German working group following the first meeting with his German counterpart, Oskar Lafontaine.

But Mr Brown went out of his way to dispel the notion that he had signed up for an Old Labour-style tax-and-spend agenda by stressing that he would oppose any moves which would raise business costs.

He also underlined his opposition to European Union tax harmonisation, seen by many as the next step towards full co-ordination of economic policies after January's launch of the euro.

Speaking outside 11 Downing Street after more than an hour of talks, Mr Brown said the discussions had been "constructive" but added that tax harmonisation was one of the issues upon which the UK and Germany took a "different view".

Conservative accusations of a lurch to the left by the Government, to keep in step with the shift in power on the Continent following the Social Democratic Party's victory in the German elections, surfaced after last month's informal EU summit in Austria.

EU leaders enthusiastically backed Franco-German plans for a co-ordinated effort to stimulate growth, harmonise tax rates and set minimum social standards.

Since then the Government has sought to distance itself from the perception of a return to tax and spend.

Yesterday, the Treasury continued to attempt to maintain a positive attitude towards Europe outside European Monetary Union without compromising its more market-oriented economic agenda. It stressed that the Anglo-German group would limit itself to joint action on competition policy, venture capital, creating better conditions for entrepreneurs and research, and progressing employment action plans.

Mr Brown believes that employment reform and competitive markets are the best way forward in Europe, not extra regulation and artificial attempts to boost jobs.

The terms of reference of the working group and its composition have yet to be finalised but it is expected to include officials from both the UK and German finance ministries.

As a demonstration of his commitment to economic reform, Mr Brown used the meeting to highlight the importance Britain attaches to new procedures under which the member states produce annual progress reports on action to improve the functioning of product and capital markets.

Britain plans to present its first report at the next meeting of EU finance ministers, on December 1.

In a speech to the Institute of Economic Affairs, the shadow chancellor Francis Maude said: "In public, the Government talks about safeguarding our national interest, and of its belief in enterprise. But in private, they are following their 'new European way' to tax, to regulate, and to spend.

"The Government is not a passive victim of Europe lurching leftward, it is a driving force behind it.

"Their attitude to the electorate in all of this is one of 'not in front of the children. Their Grand European Plan to tax, regulate and spend will apply even to countries that stay out of the Euro."

Poor nations win $20.5bn of hope

Donors give new loan scheme an easy ride, writes Alex Brummer

PROSPECTS for the world's poorest countries received a lift last night when donor nations, led by the United States and Britain, agreed to establish a new $20.5 billion lending facility to alleviate poverty.

Approval of the measure at a donors' meeting in Copenhagen comes as demand for cheap loan facilities is rising sharply as a result of the crisis in emerging-market economies — notably in Asia. It is estimated that 20 million people have moved below the poverty line in East Asia as a result of the latest global economic crisis.

The International Development Association (IDA), which will distribute the cash, is an offshoot of the World Bank and some of the funds are expected to be used in conjunction with debt-relief programmes in the poorest countries.

Uganda, the first country to receive debt forgiveness under the programme for highly-indebted countries, has received some IDA loans already from a previous facility.

The new three-year lending facility has proved much less politically troublesome than predecessors. The last replenishment was delayed for years as a result of American payments arrears, which have now been cleared.

It is understood that the British government played a key role in putting together the new facility by substantially increasing the UK's contribution.

The new lending facility will focus on four main areas:

- Investment in people by focusing on social sectors including primary education (especially for girls), clean water, health services, nutrition and social protection.
- In an effort to combat corruption, recipients will have to demonstrate that they have accountable and transparent public institutions so that the cash ends up in the right hands.
- Loans will be focused on reforms that promote labour-intensive growth, benefiting the poorest sections of society.
- All projects must include environmental objectives and be in keeping with the national and global regulatory frameworks.

About 50 per cent of the new funds will go to the poorest countries in Africa, although it also is recognised that the greatest concentration of poverty is in Asia, particularly India.

There will also be efforts to ensure that some assistance is available in East Asia.

European truce called in battle of the blue chips

Mark Milner
Deputy Financial Editor

STOCK exchanges yesterday called a truce in the struggle over the shape of pan-European trading of blue chip stocks in the wake of the introduction of the single currency.

The French finance minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, announced that the French bourse would join the alliance set up by the London and Frankfurt stock exchanges and unveiled in July.

The announcement marks a significant shift in attitudes in France.

Though London and Frankfurt indicated they would allow other exchanges to join the alliance, their move originally provoked French fury accompanied by threats to develop a rival network. Officials from other exchanges also expressed scepticism about the Anglo-German move.

However, yesterday's announcement from Mr Strauss-Kahn was accompanied by the news that Paris will host a meeting of the leaders of the main European exchanges — Paris, London, Frankfurt, Brussels, Amsterdam, Milan, Madrid, Stockholm and Zurich — next week.

A spokesman for the Frankfurt bourse welcomed the prospect of closer links with the other exchanges.

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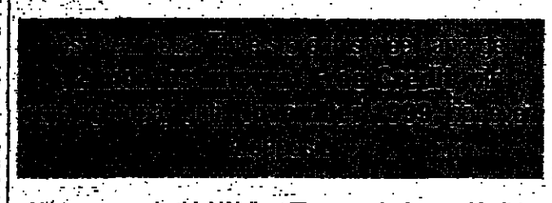
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VAT



Sentinel of the past . . . the American Air Museum at Duxford, Cambridgeshire, which last night won the Stirling Award PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

Salute to cathedral of warrior ghosts

Jonathan Glancey on this year's Stirling Award winner

BOYS and their toys, eh? Sir Norman Foster and his team spent many happy hours toying with 1:72 scale Airfix kit warplanes as they resolved the form and plan of the superb American Air Museum in Britain at Duxford.

The Cambridgeshire museum, which opened last year to great acclaim, won the Stirling Award for architecture last night.

Sponsored by the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Sunday Times, this is the only major British prize that carries anything like a decent purse — although £20,000 is presumably chicken-feed to Sir Norman, who, on most accounts, is one of the world's most successful architects.

The presentation was made by Peter Mandelson, the Trade Secretary.

As Sir Norman's great passion is flying, it should come as no surprise that the American Air Museum, devoted to a collection of magnificent warbirds clustered around a fearsome B-52 Stratofortress nuclear bomber, is one of his finest designs.

"Duxford", read the Stirling Prize citation, "is a great big, clear-span building beautifully integrated into its flat landscape, cunningly daylit around its perimeter, and with a virtuoso roof of precast (concrete) pieces engineered by Chris Wise of Ove Arup, from which the planes are suspended.

"It is an object of beauty, displaying its collection of warplanes well and dispassionately. It is one very simple idea — the great curving hangar — but replete with imagery, from ancient earthworks to the cockpit of a modern jet fighter."

Even the most hardened anti-war campaigner would be hard pressed to disagree.

The museum was designed in 1986, but stayed grounded for nearly a decade. A mercy mission by the National Heritage Lottery Fund enabled work on the £7.9 million project to start in 1995. It was completed last year.

The museum has since become a memorial to the thousands who died taking part in the US Army Air Force's mass daylight raids over occupied Europe between 1941 and 1945.

Many were based in East Anglia. "As such", says the citation, "it has something of the hushed calm of a cathedral, its planes crewed by ghosts."

What it also possesses is a window bigger than any cathedral can boast overlooking the Duxford runway, along which US warplanes, old and new, can be seen taking off and landing as a salute to their retired siblings parked in Foster's hushed hangar.

The American Air Museum beat off competition from German and other British buildings shortlisted for the Stirling Prize.

Foster aside, the Brits' best hope was the grandiloquent British Library. Rick Mather, an American who has worked in Britain for many years, was reputed to be the runner-up, with his design for a beautifully restrained house, making near poetic use of glass, in Hampstead, north London.

Two less controversial awards were also awarded last night. These were the Stephen Lawrence award for small architectural projects (under £500,000) and the Client of the Year Award.

The former was won by Ian Ritchie for the Cultural Greenhouse, set in a cliff face in Terreson, south-west France.

The latter was won by Roland Paoletti, commissioning architect of stations on London Underground's Jubilee Line extension.



Bird of war in an award-winning cage: inside the American Air Museum at Duxford PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

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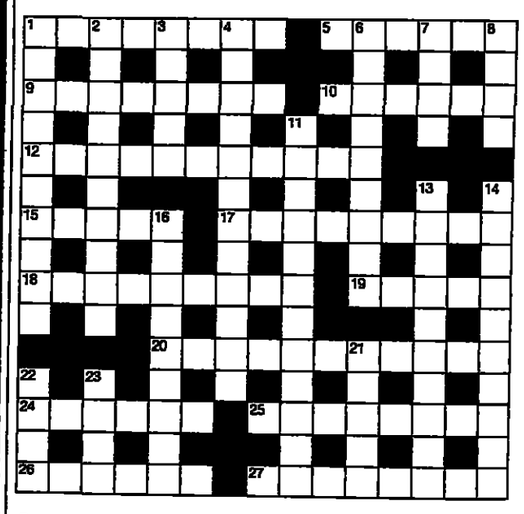
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Guardian Crossword No 21,437

Set by Mercury



Across

1 People from Job Centre turned up in town (8)
5 Head waiter gets at you in the exit (3,3)
9 Their USA supplier of dictionaries (8)
10 Hidden inside was a crumbling bone (6)
12 Instant divorce supporter (5,6)
15 Something you get down from (5)
17 Ambush a student, in other words, during the interval (3,2,4)
18 Simple-minded people love taking foreign money into pubs (9)
19 Imagine a beastly mother about to enter (5)
20 Not believing that ICI sale is fixed (11)
24 Coloured ring on cooker (5)
25 Very attractive way to win a boxing match? (8)
26 Squeeze through with a small child (6)
27 Says one objects to annoying things, including rubbish (8)

Down

1 Pie rises at cooked food shop (10)
2 Ruling out reducing LP distribution (10)
3 Smallest article in case is taken out (5)
4 To run cable car then needed permission (5,7)
6 A strip performed in it will be uninhibited! (9)
7 Monster function upset soldiers (4)
8 Large book given to crossword compiler (4)
11 My one exotic spider is a good source of income (5,7)
13 Appeared with a mongrel found by accident (4,6)
14 Fires caused terrible mist dead in the centre of America (10)
16 Figure of rector wanting other ranks' fish (9)
21 Implied a spiteful woman's upset by sex appeal (5)
22 Cereal firm requiring very many hands? (4)
23 Caught a man with a seat after a party (4)

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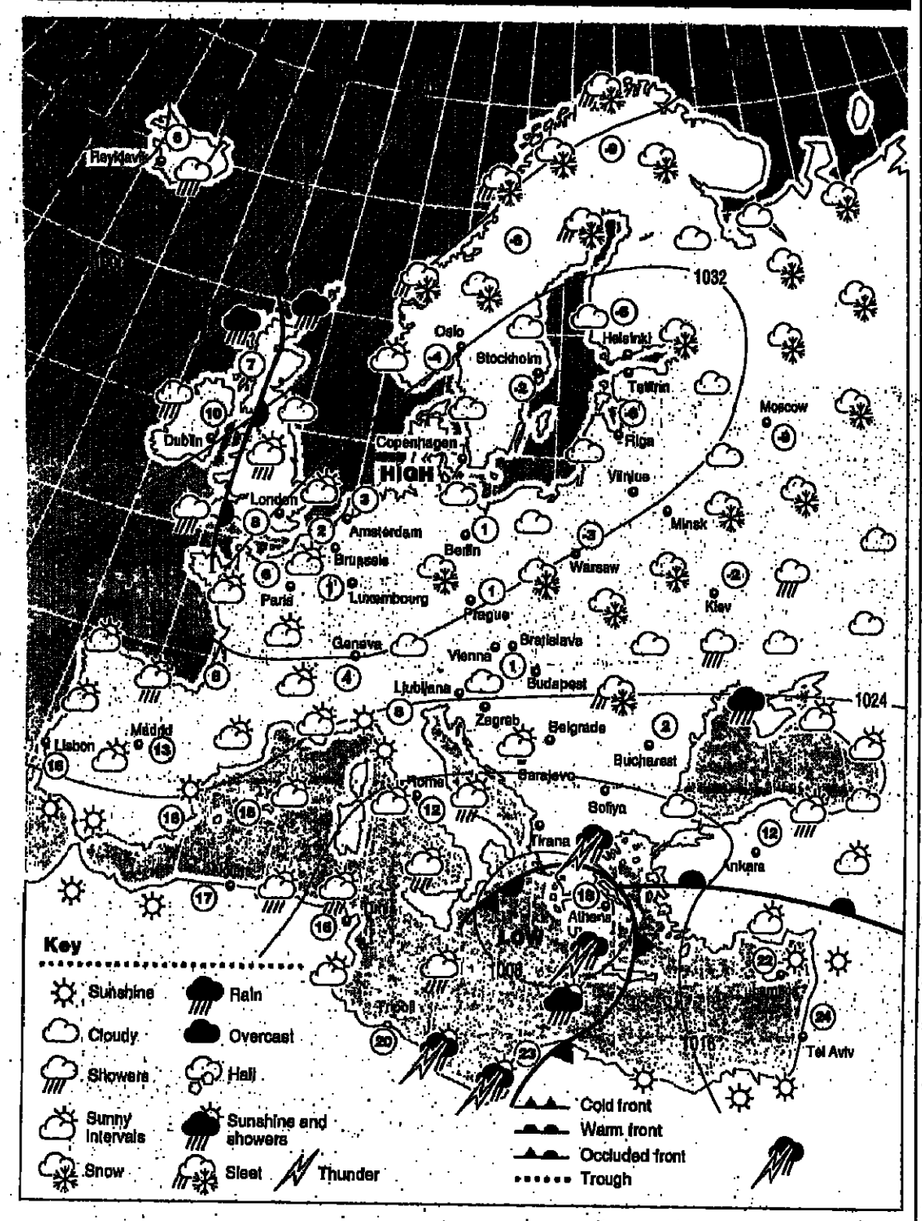
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pages 25-28

هكذا من الأصل

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities

Today

	max	min	weather
Algiers	17	7	Sh
Amsterdam	6	-2	F
Athens	16	13	Th
Berlin	1	-4	O
Bonn	3	-4	O
Brussels	3	-3	F
Copenhagen	0	-4	C
Crete	21	15	Sh
Geneva	4	-3	O
Larnaca	22	13	F
London	8	1	F
Madrid	13	-1	F
Milan	8	-2	S
Nice	16	5	F
Oslo	4	-7	C
Paris	6	-3	F
Rome	12	2	S
Stockholm	-2	-6	F
Tunis	16	8	Sh
Vienna	2	-4	C

Tomorrow

	max	min	weather
Algiers	13	5	Th
Amsterdam	4	-2	F
Athens	17	13	Th
Berlin	1	-5	S
Bonn	3	-4	F
Brussels	3	-3	F
Copenhagen	4	-1	C
Crete	23	15	F
Geneva	1	-5	F
Larnaca	24	15	F
London	7	1	F
Madrid	14	-1	S
Milan	9	-1	S
Nice	13	4	S
Oslo	2	-1	S
Paris	4	-3	S
Rome	11	2	Th
Stockholm	2	0	Th
Tunis	14	9	Th
Vienna	-1	-5	F

Sunday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	13	4	Th
Amsterdam	3	-2	F
Athens	16	13	Th
Berlin	0	-4	F
Bonn	3	-4	S
Brussels	2	-3	F
Copenhagen	4	-1	F
Crete	21	16	Sh
Geneva	0	-4	F
Larnaca	25	16	S
London	8	1	F
Madrid	11	0	S
Milan	8	-1	S
Nice	16	4	F
Oslo	5	1	Dr
Paris	5	-3	F
Rome	12	4	Sh
Stockholm	4	0	F
Tunis	14	10	Th
Vienna	1	-4	F

Monday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	17	5	F
Amsterdam	3	-2	F
Athens	17	13	Th
Berlin	1	-3	F
Bonn	4	-3	F
Brussels	2	-3	F
Copenhagen	3	-1	F
Crete	21	14	Sh
Geneva	1	-3	F
Larnaca	25	17	S
London	7	1	F
Madrid	12	1	S
Milan	8	0	S
Nice	14	6	F
Oslo	5	2	Sl
Paris	4	-2	F
Rome	14	5	Sh
Stockholm	4	-1	C
Tunis	18	10	R
Vienna	1	-3	F

C, cloudy; Dr, drizzle; F, fair; Fg, fog; H, hail; R, rain; Sl, sleet; Sn, snow; S, sunny; Th, thunder. * (previous day's reading)

Around the world

Yesterday's lunchtime reports

Abroath	D	10	50
Acapulco	Th	34	93
Amsterdam	S	3	37
Anchorage	S	3	37
Athens	F	14	57
Auckland	F	20	68
Ayr	D	9	48
Barbados	S	30	86
Belfast	D	9	48
Belgrade	F	1	34
Bermuda	F	24	75
Biarritz	F	9	48
Bombay	F	30	86
Bordeaux	F	8	46
Boston	F	4	39
Brisbane	F	33	91
Brussels	F	3	37
Budapest	F	2	36
Cairo	S	24	75
Calcutta	C	30	86
Calgary	C	3	37
Canberra	C	9	48
Cape Town	C	19	66
Casablanca	F	19	66
Chicago	C	9	48
Christchurch	C	10	50
Corfu	S	14	57
Dallas	C	18	64
Delhi	C	28	82
Darwin	F	33	91
Dhaka	S	30	86
Dublin	D	9	48
Dubrovnik	C	9	48
Faro	S	20	68
Fortrose	D	9	48
Frankfurt	Sn	1	34
Funchal	Sh	19	66
Geneva	S	2	36
Gibraltar	F	19	66
Gothenburg	C	3	37
Helsinki	C	-1	30
Hong Kong	C	24	75
Honolulu	R	24	75
Ibiza	S	13	55
Innsbruck	C	0	32
Istanbul	F	9	48
Jersey	C	10	50
Jerusalem	F	25	77
Joburg	S	19	66
Karachi	S	30	86
Kiev	Sn	-7	19
Kingston	S	32	90
Larnaca	S	23	73
Lima	O	22	72
Lisbon	F	13	55
London	F	7	45
Los Angeles	F	19	66
Luxembourg	F	0	32
Madrid	F	5	41
Majorca	F	14	57
Malaga	S	19	66
Malta	F	19	66
Manila	F	32	90
Melbourne	C	17	63
Mexico City	S	22	72
Miami	F	28	82
Milan	D	9	48
Montreal	O	1	34
Moscow	Sn	-2	28
Munich	O	-1	30
Nairobi	F	23	73
Naples	C	9	48
New Delhi	S	24	75
New Orleans	F	23	73
Nice	S	14	57
Oslo	F	2	36
Paris	F	3	37
Perth	C	27	81
Prague	O	-2	28
Reykjavik	Sn	7	45
Rhodes	S	18	64
Rio de Jan.	F	26	79
Rome	O	7	48
Singapore	S	30	86
Stockholm	F	-1	30
Strasbourg	Sn	-1	30
Sydney	Sh	17	63
Tel Aviv	F	23	73
Tenerife	S	24	75
Tokyo	C	15	59
Toronto	O	7	45
Tunis	S	18	64
Valencia	S	14	57
Vancouver	S	8	46
Venice	O	6	41
Vienna	O	1	34
Warsaw	Sn	-2	28
Washington	F	11	52
Wellington	F	20	68
Zurich	M	-2	28

European weather outlook

Scandinavia

It will be very cold with some snow and sleet showers, especially in the north. To the south and across Denmark it will be brighter with more sunshine, but it will remain very chilly. Max temps will range from only -10C in the far north, to +2C further south.

Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland

There will be a frosty and foggy start to the day for most places. Once the fog clears, any sunshine will give way to a rather cloudy day with some snow showers. It will remain cold with max temps of -2C to +3C.

France

It will be a mainly fine day with some pleasant wintry sunshine at times. However, there is a slight risk of an isolated shower spreading in from Northern Spain and the Bay of Biscay. It will be slightly milder on the west coast, but it will remain cold inland. Max temp 4C in the east, 9C in the west.

Spain and Portugal

The south will be very pleasant with some long spells of wintry sunshine. The rest of the region will be cloudier, but still with some sunny spells. There will be the threat of a shower or two along the north coast. Max temp 10C in the north to 18C in the south.

Italy

The south will see some showery outbreaks with occasional sunny spells. It will become increasingly dry and sunny further north. Max temp ranging from 10C in the north to 17C in the south.

Greece

It will be showery with some heavy or thundery outbreaks at times. Max temp 15 to 18C.

Television and Radio

BBC 1

7.00am Business Breakfast. 9.00 Breakfast News. 10.00 Kilroy. 10.45 Style Challenge. 11.05 City Hospital. 11.50 News Regional News and Weather. 12.00 Real Rooms. 12.30 Don't Cook, Won't Cook. 12.55 News Regional News and Weather. 1.00 Pass the Buck. 1.30 Going for a Song. 1.50 The Weather Show. 2.00 One O'Clock News. 2.30 Regional News and Weather. 2.40 Neighbours. 3.05 Children in Need: The Final Countdown. 3.55 Ironside. 4.15 The Weather Show. 4.20 Children's BBC: Fingers. 4.45 Bannerman. 4.50 The All-New Poppin Show. 5.20 How We Met. 5.30 Ace Ventura Pet Detective. 5.55 Lizard's Record Breakers. 6.00 Newsround. 6.10 Blue Peter. 6.35 Neighbours. 7.00 Six O'Clock News. 7.40 Regional News Magazine. 8.00 Children in Need. 8.30 Regional Update. 8.40 Children in Need. 10.30 Nine O'Clock News. 10.50 Children in Need. 12.20 Regional Update. 1.00 Children in Need. 2.45 Grand Total. 2.50 Weather. 2.55 BBC News 24.

BBC 2

7.30am Jets and Black Holes. 8.00 Children's BBC: Hairy Jeremy. 8.05 Teletubbies. 8.30 Tom and Jerry Kids. 8.55 Sport. 9.00 Robinson Sucroe. 9.45 Johnson and Friends. 9.50 Hairy Jeremy. 9.55 Daytime on Two: Storytime. 10.30 See You, See Me. 10.50 Watch. 10.45 Count Duckula. 11.00 Children's BBC: Teletubbies. 11.25 Daytime on Two: Magpenetics. 11.50 Look and Read. 12.10 Landmarks. 12.30 English File. 1.00 Testament: The Bible in Animation. 1.50 Working Lunch. 2.50 Children's BBC: Johnson and Friends. 2.30 Sophie's Secret. 2.45 The History Man. 3.15 Art Matters. 3.50 Count Duckula. 4.00 Teletubbies. 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook. 5.00 Look and Read. 5.20 Watch. The Ashes. 7.00 The Simpsons. 7.55 Robot Wars. 7.55 Top of the Pops. 8.30 Bookmark. 9.00 Widerness Walks. 9.30 Gardening Neighbours. 10.00 Blackadder Goes Forth. 10.30 Goodness Gracious Me. 11.00 Have I Got News for You. 11.30 Newsnight. 12.25 Sixth Sense. 12.30 Later with Jools Holland. 1.50 Comedy Nation. 2.20 Dads 21. 2.30 Weather. 2.35 Close. 4.00 Learning Zone: Active Learning: Dynamo 3. 5.00 Close.

BBC Prime

| Astra

7.00am World News. 7.25 World Weather. 7.30 Morning. 7.45 Teddy. 8.00 Blue Peter. 8.30 Grange Hill. 8.55 Hot Chefs. 9.00 Ready, Steady, Cook. 9.45 Style Challenge. 10.00 Change That. 10.30 Kilroy. 10.45 EastEnders. 11.15 Clive James on Film. 12.00 Floyd on France. 12.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. 1.00 Don't Cook, Won't Cook. 1.30 Change That. 2.00 Wildlife. 2.30 EastEnders. 3.00 Kilroy. 3.45 Style Challenge. 4.05 Prime Weather. 4.10 Hot Chefs. 4.35 Teddy. 4.45 Blue Peter. 5.10 Grange Hill. 5.35 Wildlife. 6.00 World News. 6.25 World Weather. 6.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. 7.00 EastEnders. 7.30 Dalle Smith's Winter Collection. 8.00 Children in Need. 10.00 World News. 10.25 World Weather. 10.30 Children in Need. 1.05 Dr Who: Invisible Enemy. 1.30 Enzymes.

BBC World

| Eutelsat

7.00am World News and Weather. 7.30 World Living: Top Gear. 8.00 World News and Weather. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 World News and Weather. 9.30 World Focus: Panorama. 10.00 World News and Weather. 10.30 Hard Talk. 11.00 World News and Weather. 11.30 World Living: The Net. 12.30 The World Today. 12.50 World City Guides. 1.00 The World Today. 1.30 World Focus: Panorama. 2.00 World News and Weather. 2.30 World Business Report and Weather. 2.50 The World Today. 3.30 World Living: Earth Report. 4.00 World News and Weather. 4.30 Hard Talk. 5.00 World News and Weather. 5.30 World Focus: Panorama. 6.00 World News and Weather. 6.30 World Living: Top Gear. 7.00 The World Today. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 World News and Weather. 9.30 USA Direct. 10.00 News and Weather. 10.30 World Focus: Panorama. 11.00 World News and Weather. 11.30 Europe Direct. 11.50 World City Guides. 12.00 World News and Weather. 12.30 World Business Report. 12.45 Asia Today. 12.50 World City Guides. 1.00 World News. 1.05 World Living: Earth Report. 2.00 News and Weather. 2.30 Asia Today. 2.45 World Business Report. 2.50 World City Guides. 3.00 News and Weather. 3.30 USA Direct. 4.00 News and Weather. 4.30 World Focus: Panorama. 5.00 World City Guides.

Radio 4

92.4-94.6 MHz; 198 kHz (look)

7.00am Today. 9.00 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament. 10.00 Desert Island Discs. 10.45 (LW) An Act of Worship. 10.45 (FM) Serial: Alastair Cooke - A Celebration. 11.00 Woman's Hour. 12.00 Great White Sheikh. 12.50 Globe. 1.00 News. 1.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 1.04 You and Yours. 2.00 The World at One. 2.40 Screen Test. 3.00 The Archers. 3.15 Afternoon Play: Mrs Shakespeare. 4.00 Melting History. 4.30 Revenge! 4.45 Feedback. 5.00 Open Book. 5.30 The Message. 5.50 PM. 6.24 Shipping Forecast. 7.00 Six O'Clock News. 7.30 This Life. 8.00 The Archers. 8.15 Front Row. 8.45 Bits Wiiters. 9.00 Any Questions? 9.45 Letter from America. 10.00 The Friday Play: The Destiny of Nathalie X. 11.00 The World Tonight. 11.45 Book at Bedtime: Le Grand Meaulnes. 12.00 Late Night on 4: Late Tackle. 02.30 (LW) Today in Parliament. 12.30 (FM) News from this Ditch. 1.00 News. 1.04 (LW) Test Match Special. 1.30 (FM) The Late Spot: A Man to Full. 1.45 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 As World Service.

BBC World Service

BBC World Service can be received in England on MW 648 kHz (463m) and in Western Europe on LW 198 kHz (515m)

7.30am The Way We Are. 7.45 Transplantations. 8.00 News. 8.07 Off the Shelf: One of Ours 2/2. 8.20 Music Review. 9.00 News. 9.05 Pause for Thought. 9.20 Westway. 9.30 John Peel. 10.00 News; (646 only) News in German. 10.05 World Business Report. 10.15 Early Versions. 10.30 Speaking of English. 10.45 Sports Round-Up. 11.00 Newsdesk. 11.30 Assignment. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 Focus on Faith. 1.00 News. 1.05 World Business Report. 1.15 British Today. 1.30 Wood, Guts and Skies. 1.45 Sports Round-Up. 2.00 Newshour. 3.00 News. 3.05 Outlook. 3.30 Multitrack: Alternative. 4.00 News; (646 only) News in German. 4.05 Football Extra. 4.30 To Be Continued. 4.50 Science in Action. 5.00 News. 5.15 Soundworks. 5.30 Insight; (646 only) News in German. 5.45 Britain Today. 6.00 Europe Today. 6.30 World Business Report. 6.45 Sports Round-Up. 7.00 Newsdesk. 7.30 Focus On Faith; (648 only) News in German. 8.00 News Summary. 8.07 Outlook. 8.30 Tunes For Thoughts. 8.50 Multitrack Alternative. 9.00 Newshour. 10.00 News. 10.05 World Business Report. 10.15 Britain Today. 10.30 People and Politics. 11.00 Newsdesk. 11.30 Insight. 11.45 Sports Round-Up. 12.00 News. 12.05 Outlook. 12.30 Multitrack Alternative. 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.05 From the Weeklies. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 To Be Continued. 2.45 Forest Poet. 3.00 Newshour. 3.30 People and Politics. 4.00 News. 4.05 World Business Report. 4.15 Sports Round-Up. 4.30 Science in Action. 5.00 Newsdesk. 5.30 Insight. 5.45 Off the Shelf.

Sky Premier

| Astra

7.00 Sp. 9.00 Three Wishes. 11.00 It Takes Two. 1.00 Sp. 3.00 Angels in the Attic. 5.00 Three Wishes. 7.00 It Takes Two. 9.00 The Mirror has Two Faces. 11.00 Mulholland Falls. 12.50 The Pathfinder. 2.30 The Deliverance of Eddie Gallon. 4.00 In the Line of Duty: Blaze of Glory. 5.30 Angels in the Attic.

Sky MovieMax

| Astra

7.00 Son of Godzilla. 8.30 Space and Beyond. 10.40 Friendship's Field. 12.40 Forest Flame. 2.40 Son of Godzilla. 4.00 Space and Beyond. 5.40 Friendship's Field. 8.00 PPreview. 8.30 UK Top 10. 9.00 The Craft. 11.00 Stoneboy. 12.55 A Nightmare on Elm Street: 3: Friday the 13th. 2.40 Helicopter IV: The Return of Michael Myers.

Sky Cinema

| Astra

7.00 Suspicion. 8.00 The Rain People. 11.00 The Laughing Policeman. 12.55 The Outlaw. 2.50 The Rainbow. 4.40 Son of Paleface.

Sky Sports

| Astra

7.00 Futures In Sport. 8.00 Sports Centre. 8.35 Trans World Sport. 9.15 Sports Centre. 9.30 Racing Nexis. 10.00 Golf: World Cup of Golf. 12.00 Football: Spanish Primera Liga. 2.00 Football League Review. 2.30 Futbol Mundial. 3.00 What A Weekend. 4.30 Watersports World. 4.45 The Rugby Club. 5.30 Trans World Sport. 6.30 What A Weekend. 7.00 Sports Centre. 8.00 Schoolboy Football: Wales v Scotland - Live. 10.00 WWF Wrestling: Raw. 12.00 Sports Centre. 1.00 Hold the Back Page. 2.00 WWF Wrestling: Raw. 4.00 Golf: World Cup of Golf - Live. 6.00 Sports Centre. 7.00 Close.

Sky Sports 3

| Astra

12.30 Futures In Sport. 1.00 Trans World Sport. 2.00 Fishing: Tight Lines. 3.00 Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook. 4.00 Ice Hockey: London Knights v Newcastle Riverkings. 7.00 Motorsport: Champion of the Future. 7.30 Golf: Inside the Senior PGA Tour. 8.00 Golf: World Cup of Golf. 10.00 Women's Golf: LPGA Tour Championship - Live. 12.00 H2O. 12.30 Rebel TV. 1.00 Close.

Eurosport

| Astra/Eutelsat

8.30 Snowboarding: FIS World Cup Series. 9.30 Alpine Skiing: World Cup. 11.00 Modern Pentathlon: World Tour. 12.00 International Motorsports Magazine. 1.00 Snowboarding: FIS World Cup - Live. 2.00 Alpine Skiing: World Cup Women's Giant Slalom. 3.00 Trans Pacific Challenge. 5.00 Alpine Skiing: World Cup Women's Giant Slalom. 6.00 Alpine Skiing: World Cup Men's Giant Slalom - live. 7.00 Motorsport: API Rally Australia. 7.30 Mountain Biking: La Poste Trophy. 9.00 Alpine Skiing: World Cup Men's Giant Slalom - Live. 8.45 Motocycling: World Supercross Championship - Live. 11.00 Bowling: Golden Bowling Ball Tour. 12.00 Extreme Sports: Youth Only Zone. 1.00 Close.

Sky 1

| Astra

6.00 Earthworm Jim. 6.30 The Simpsons. 9.00 The Simpsons. 9.30 Hollywood Squares. 10.00 Ballyl. 11.00 Sally Jessy Raphael. 12.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. 1.00 Jerry Jones. 1.55 The Specialk K Collection. 2.00 Days of Our Lives. 2.55 The Special K Collection. 3.00 Sally Jessy Raphael. 3.55 The Special K Collection. 4.00 Jerry Jones. 4.55 The Special K Collection. 5.00 Guilty! 6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 7.00 Married...With Children. 7.30 Friends. 8.00 The Simpsons. 8.30 The Simpsons. 9.00 The Simpsons. 9.30 The Simpsons. 10.00 Weber: Tiger Ranger. 11.00 Cops. 11.30 Cops. 12.00 Fritlids. 12.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 1.30 Renegade. 2.30 Long Play.

National Geographic

| Astra

9.00 Dinosaur Week: Curse of the T-Rex. 10.00 Friday Night Wild: Secret Life of Cats. 11.00 Friday Night Wild: Monkeys of Neuaman. 12.00 Friday Night Wild: Abyssinian She-wolf. 1.00 Mysteries Underground.

UK Gold

| Astra

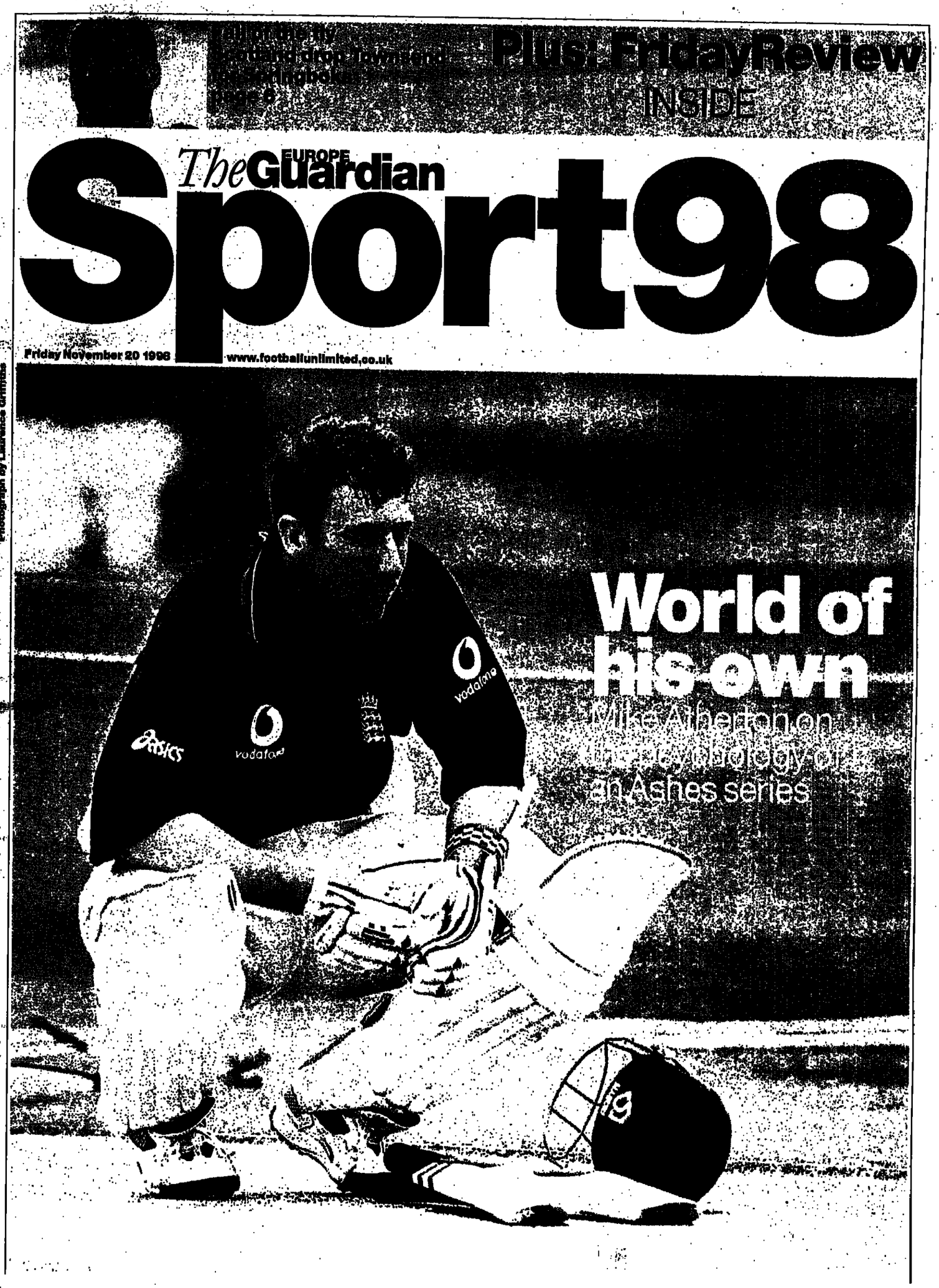
8.00 Crossroads. 8.30 Neighbours. 8.55 EastEnders. 9.50 The Bill. 10.20 The Bill. 10.30 Benjamin. 11.20 Angels. 12.00 Dallas. 12.55 Neighbours. 1.25 EastEnders. 2.00 Juliet Bravo. 3.00 Dallas. 3.55 The Bill. 4.25 The Bill. 4.55 Benjamin. 5.05 EastEnders. 6.00 Angels. 7.00 Due South. 8.00 May to December. 8.40 It Ain't Half Hot, Mum. 9.30 Dad's Army. 10.00 Men Behaving Badly. 10.40 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet. 11.45 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? 12.30 The Bill. 12.55 The Bill. 1.25 Dr Who Omnibus. 5.10 Lovejoy. Frontier. 4.00 Shopping With Screenshop.

Discovery

| Astra/Intelsat

6.00 First Flights. 7.00 Animal Doctor. 8.30 Beyond 2000. 9.00 The Best of Discovery: Mystery of the Ghost Galleon. 10.00 Crocodile Hunter. 11.00 Real Lives: Underwater Cops. 12.00 Weapons of War: Luftwaffe. 1.00 The Great Egyptians. 2.00 First Flights. 2.30 Wheel Nuts. 3.00 Close.

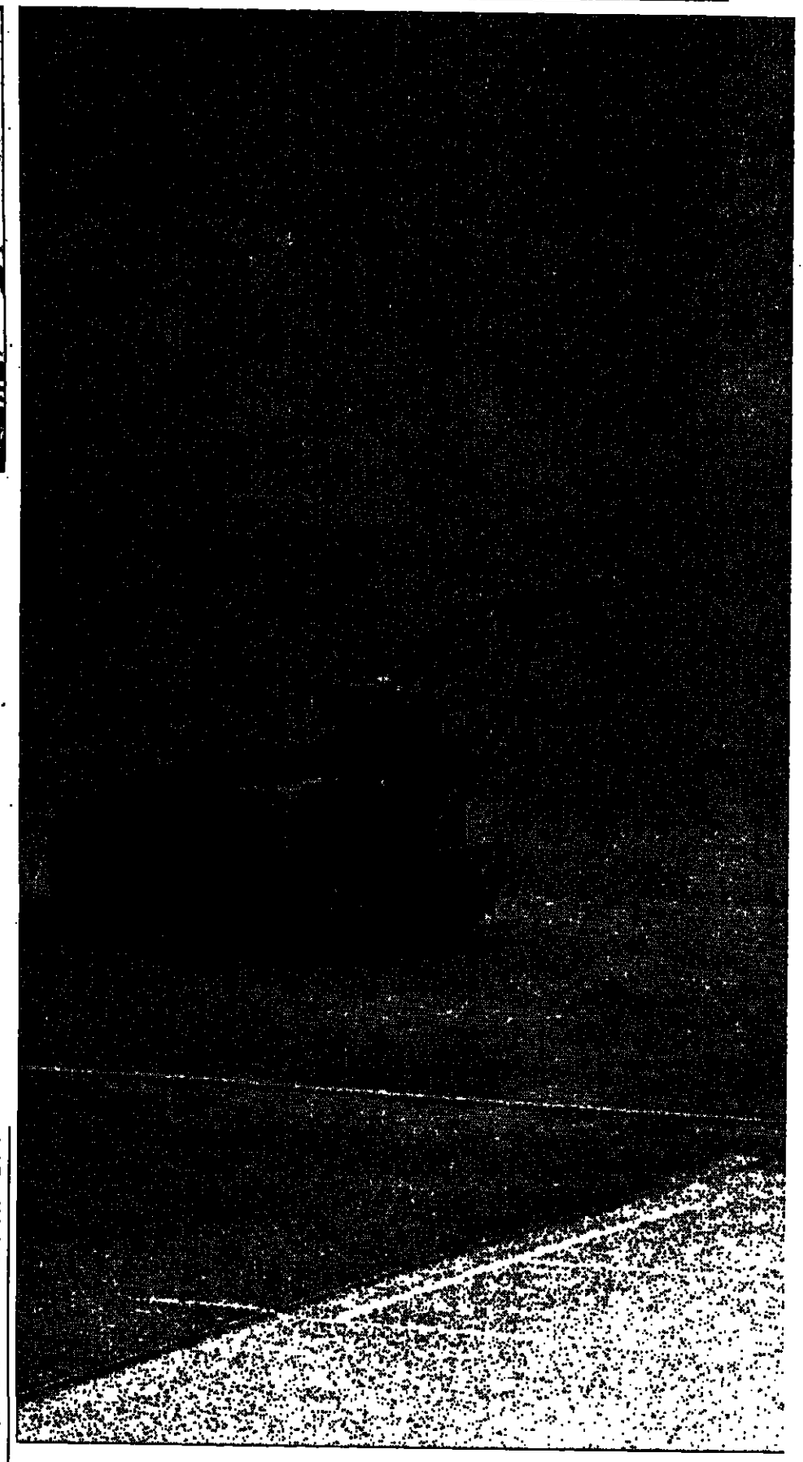
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A cut behind point, a drive to the cover fence, a pull to backward square. And all before you even get to the middle. **Mike Selvey** speaks to Mike Atherton about cricket's mind games

Getting up for the Ashes



Lonely at the top ... Mike Atherton gets a feel for the Gabba wicket yesterday (above), where he will face an Australian pace contingent chosen from Mike Kasprowicz (top left), Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie and Damien Fleming

PHOTOGRAPHS: LAURENCE GRIFFITHS, GRAHAM CHADWICK

LIKE Henry V wandering through the marquees before Agincourt, Mike Atherton will not have slept easy last night. The old back trouble — the sukolyaing spondylitis that will one day probably end his career — has been around again, of course, but this is different, a restlessness caused by the anxiety of a man honing his mental faculties and nerves to a razor edge to cope with the demands of playing his sport at the highest level.

It says everything about Atherton and the esteem in which he is held that of all the lip-smacking possibilities that have been thrown up by this series it is his confrontation with Australia's spearhead Glenn McGrath that most sets the pulse racing. It is Atherton's wicket that is seen by the Australians, just as it was by the West Indians and South Africans, as the key that unlocks the door to the England middle order.

A century from Atherton cannot be guaranteed to set up a win, but almost without exception it is a copper-bottomed insurance policy against defeat. Atherton, at the top of the order, leads the way and shows what is possible, and he will need every ounce of his skill and character to overcome McGrath, who dismissed him seven times in 11 completed innings the last time the sides met.

Atherton is, we have grown to know, an exceptional character, and without doubt the most mentally tough English batsman of his generation. He plays on his nerves: the tougher the challenge, the higher the stakes, the more he is likely to respond. His capacity to raise his game — to be "up for it" in modern sporting jargon — is quite phenomenal.

But it is not something that happens naturally. "The majority of top Test players will tell you that they have an ability to raise their game at key moments," he says. "I think it definitely comes with experience. The longer you play the more you can take your game up an extra per cent beyond the humdrum matches, and because we in England play more humdrum cricket than Australians or South Africans, for example, we probably have to do so more consciously."

The former captain spent yesterday afternoon chilling out at the pictures watching Private Ryan being seen, but as they always do, his match-play mind had kicked in two days before the game. "For me it begins with practice over those two days. It is a conscious thing, a full dress rehearsal. I treat nets absolutely as a match situation.

"So as you walk into the net you give yourself the same thought processes as you might in a match, you take guard and do all your trigger movements the same and you are very, very hard on yourself. This is not just an occasion to go in and hit the ball.

"Then what I find really good for me is to just spend a few solitary moments out on the pitch either the day before or on the morning of a match, which is when I do the visualisation stuff — what's going to come, who's going to bowl, how they are going to bowl, what tactics they will use, what's going to be said to try and get under my skin — so that nothing can come as a surprise."

So already he had been visualising an encounter with McGrath, and it did not need the bowler's newspaper utterings yesterday to remind him. "I know how he's going to bowl at me," Atherton says. "Of course I do. But the visualisation is vital. I have to be mindful of who is bowling, where they are likely to bowl, where the catchers are going to be, and so on, and these thought processes prepare me for that. But you have to be further mindful always that this is England against Australia, our batsmen against their bowlers, not just me against McGrath. You can't just see off one person and then get out to a wide half volley from some other bloke."

Always he is trying to achieve that state of nervousness that might make sleep fitful. "Nerves are so important to me. I think there are two sorts of player: those who are quite placid people — and I put myself in that category — who need an adrenalin flow to get them up for it, and so find nerves a real help.

"And then there are those who are naturally hyper for whom that additional adrenalin flow may not be such a good thing. When I look at players now I can see who fits into which category and then their ability to cope depends on whether they can either bring themselves up or take themselves down."

Occasionally, the process has let him down. During his record-breaking spell as captain, there were days of distraction when England had spent too long in the field or a last wicket stand had frustrated them and Atherton was not able to think ahead. The Moin Khan incident, where in a Test against Pakistan Atherton found himself too relaxed, and so indiscriminately launched into an unprovoked verbal fight with the nearest, extremely bemused fielder, bears repeating. "Yes, well that used very artificial means, but it was early in the innings and I couldn't think of anything else to do to get the adrenalin rushing." He went on to make 80 odd.

"Not too many people sleep absolutely soundly before a Test, I can assure you," he says. "It is a real, anticipatory, buzzy-nervy feeling. It is not actually that good a feeling in truth, but you have to put yourself through it to bring out the best in yourself. You are always putting yourself on the line and that is what top level cricket is all about."

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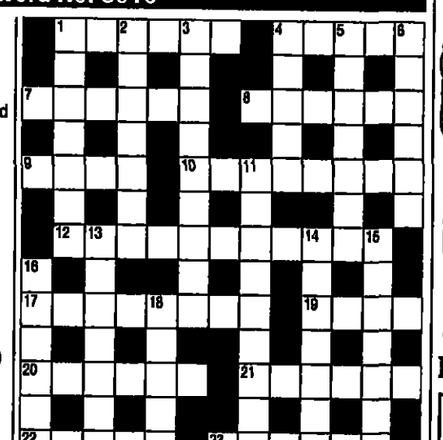
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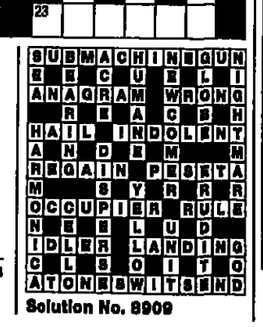
Across

1 Path — students may follow it (6)
4 Subject (6)
7 One eighth of fluid ounce (6)
8 Discussion (6)
9 Capital — punishment (4)
10 Undiplomatic (8)
12 Caustic — bitter (11)
17 Dead-end (3-2-3)
19 Cost of travel — food (4)
20 Banished (6)
21 Busy — tenant (6)
22 Power (5)
23 Sea hawk (6)

Down

1 Mediterranean island — birthplace of Napoleon (7)
2 Confused (7)
3 Occasionally (9)
4 Minister — negotiate (5)
5 Tableland (7)
6 Fold (6)
11 Aware (9)
13 Vocation — a town crier's? (7)
14 Commissioned serviceman (7)
15 Angry — awkward (7)
16 Indication of terror — how funny! (6)
18 Build — straight up (5)





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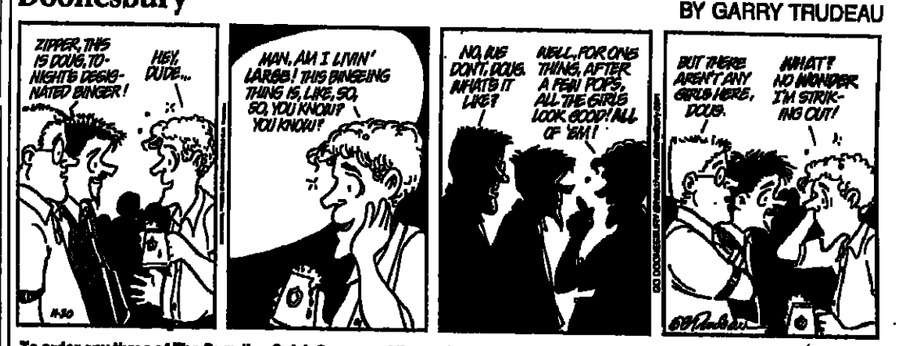
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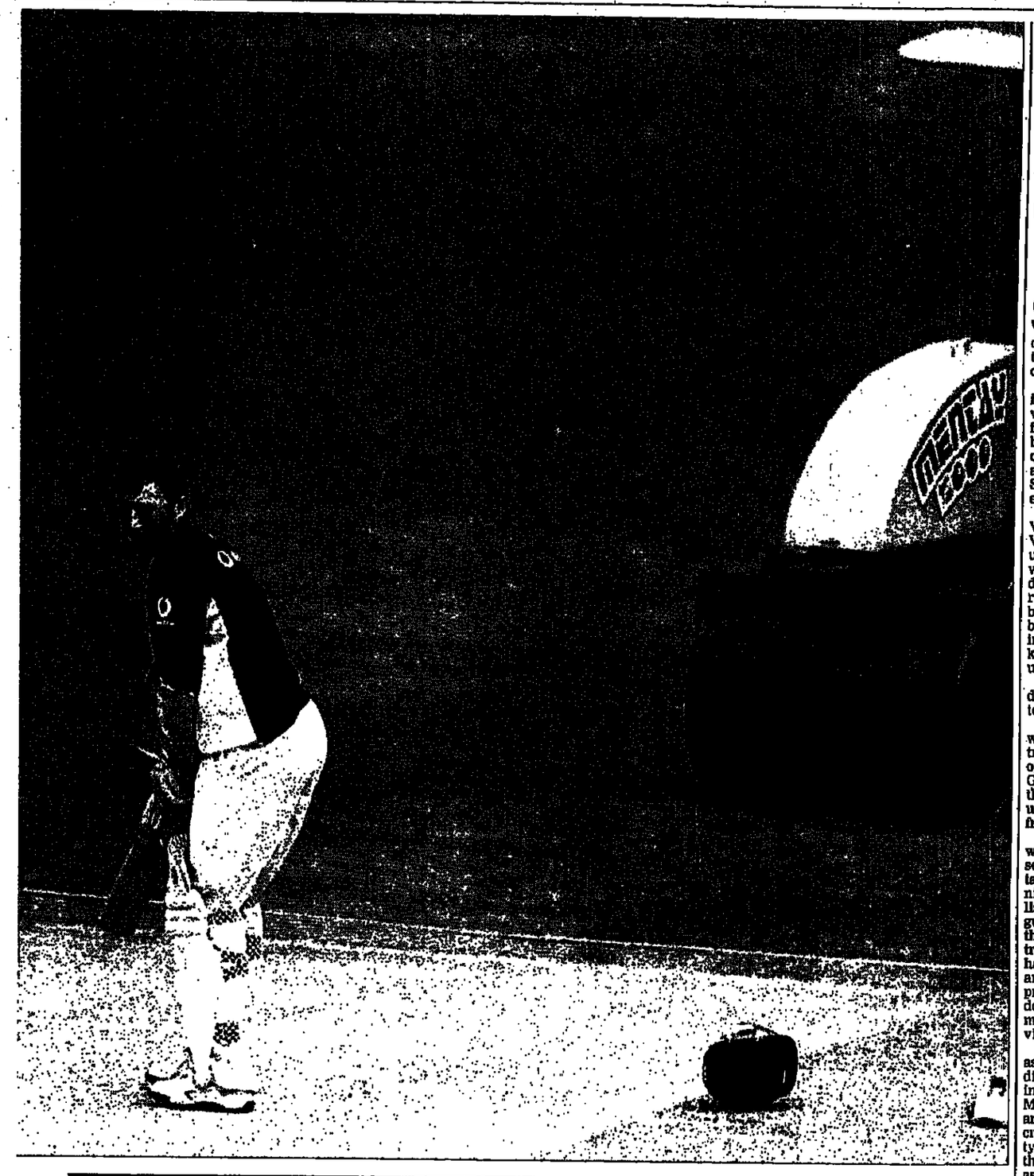
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The Guardian The Observer



Warne out but still in news

SHANE WARNE faces a fine or suspension after being reported yesterday for breaching the Australian Cricket Board's code of conduct.

The leg-spinner, recovering from a shoulder injury that will keep him out of at least the first two Ashes Tests, was cited by ACB chief executive Malcolm Speed for his comments after Victoria's narrow Sheffield Shield defeat by Western Australia last weekend.

Warne was incensed when Victorian batsman Graeme Vimpani was given out lbw by umpire Randolph Woolridge, who was making his first class debut, during his side's two-run defeat in Perth. Warne believed Vimpani hit the ball before it struck his pad, saying: "Everybody in the ground knew he hit it barring the umpire."

Warne will appear before a disciplinary hearing at a date to be fixed.

Warne, meanwhile, who will be commentating for Australian television during the opening two Tests at the Gabba and in Perth, warned the Australian public not to under-estimate the challenge from England this winter.

Despite being sidelined for what he regards as "the best series of them all", he has taken enough notice to recognise signs of a revival in English cricket under the guidance of Alec Stewart. "I think England are on the right track," said Warne. "They have to believe they can win and if they don't, they will probably lose — it all comes down to the guys and how much they want it as an individual and as a team.

"I'm sure with Alec Stewart as captain it will make a big difference, and that's not taking anything away from Michael Atherton, but Stewart is an imaginative sort of cricketer. "He's an attacking type of batsman and I'm sure they are going to give as good as they get over here.

"England are going to play pretty good cricket — if anyone is underestimating them, they are going to be in for a big surprise. If Darren Gough can stay fit then they have a real chance because he is an inspirational player and everybody else just rubs off him."

Warne has spent time in Brisbane with Stuart MacGill, his replacement in the Australian side, passing on information he believes will help in securing a first Test victory.

"I've had a little chat with Stuart but I'm sure he will be his own man, which is the best thing he can do," Warne said.

"If he can bowl like he has in the first Test in Pakistan then I'm sure he'll do pretty well. I've told him what I think are a few of England's weaknesses and I'm sure he'll have a great Test match — it's a great wicket to bowl leg-spin on."

The right training for our thoughts



WHY can't England's cricketers get into the habit of winning? Conventional wisdom says it is a question of quality — find us a Shane Warne and we will be fine. But Birmingham University sports psychologist Dr Rich Masters, an Australian who specialises in anxiety, believes it may be that, like most British sportspeople, our cricketers do not do enough mental preparation.

"The average elite athlete spends 99.5 per cent of his training on physical well-being, and ignores mental techniques which make a huge difference. The reason for failure is frequently mental and there are clear ways of avoiding it."

If this sounds like psychobabble, Masters is quick to recognise the pitfalls of simplistic solutions. "The relation between peak performance and anxiety is complex and varies hugely between individuals. One member of a team may need to be aroused, another may need to be calmed." Still, he suggests four fruitful areas of mental focus.

First, establish pre-performance team and individual routines. "It might even include a specific breakfast or packing the bag in a certain way. It often helps to reduce the pressure of the big match and create the right frame of mind."

Second, set appropriate goals. "It's not useful thinking of a century if that makes you forget the stuff in between. This also applies to practice, where it is worth setting very specific goals in terms of, say, skills to be mastered. The point is to be process-oriented rather than outcome-oriented."

Third, develop a mental picture of what lies ahead. "Some athletes, like Nick Faldo, swear by this process. If used the right way it can enhance confidence, although it is not as easy with a sport involving open skills like cricket. It may be worth visualising the time at the crease as long as you avoid becoming over-obsessed with the mechanical details of performance, because it is so easy for this to fall apart."

Fourth, avoid becoming obsessed about past failure. "One of the strongest failings is the tendency to rehearse upsetting events — the winning tennis player who gets a bad call and goes on to lose the game or the match, or the fielder who drops a catch and becomes distracted by that memory for the rest of the day. It is easy to get into the habit of rehearsing failure."

He suggests a range of counter-techniques. "A typical example would involve learning to listen. You might even close your eyes for a few seconds and listen to everything going on around you, to help you return to the present. You can then start smelling the roses again and forget about the failure."

Gavin Evans

Football

McManaman eyes Juve and millions

Ian Ross

STEVE McManaman will become the most celebrated beneficiary of the Bosman era next summer if, or more likely when, he severs his ties with Liverpool.

The 26-year-old England international is ready to walk out on his hometown club after refusing even to consider signing a new contract first placed on Anfield's boardroom table more than 18 months ago.

It means that Liverpool, the club which spotted, nurtured and then refined McManaman's much coveted skills, will not receive a penny for a player who would probably command a fee of more than £10 million if he were transferred in mid-contract.

Although Liverpool still harbour hopes — albeit increasingly slender — of persuading McManaman to stay, a queue of clubs wishing to open negotiations with the versatile winger is forming.

While McManaman will require Anfield's permission before he can talk to another club, Liverpool are powerless to prevent prospective employers contacting the player's personal advisers to register their interest.

Even so, speculation in Spain that McManaman will shortly announce that he intends to play for Real Madrid next season appears to be wide of the mark.

When Liverpool concede his departure from the Premiership is inevitable, McManaman is likely to go to Real. But it is believed he would prefer a move to one of Italy's leading clubs, with Juventus top of his list.

Liverpool's chief executive Rick Parry did have brief talks with the Real president Lorenzo Sanz in Madrid earlier this week but only in an attempt to ascertain whether their interest was genuine.

McManaman is already looking towards a new life of untold riches. He can expect a signing-on fee in excess of £1.5 million and a salary of at least £2 million.

Earlier in the week Liverpool's manager Gérard Houllier all but admitted defeat in his club's prolonged battle to keep McManaman.

"If I was the manager of Real Madrid — or Barcelona or any leading club — I would want to have Steve McManaman in my side," he said.

Houllier suggested the only chance of keeping him would be if he decided to sign a 12-month contract extension having failed to secure a move to the club of his choice.

Michael Stensgaard, FC Copenhagen's goalkeeper, will return to the Premiership with Southampton at the start of next month on a 3½-year contract after the clubs agreed a £100,000 fee.

The Dane, 24, was once a reserve goalkeeper at Liverpool but returned home two years ago after suffering a freak shoulder injury. He made a comeback with FC Copenhagen in 1997 and impressed Southampton's manager Dave Jones with his recent displays against Chelsea in the Cup Winners' Cup.

Jones is giving a 10-day trial to two Belarus international defenders, Andrei Ostrovski and Sergi Shtanyuk, with a view to permanent deals. Ostrovski, 26, and Shtanyuk, 25, play for Dynamo Moscow.

Cesare Maldini, dismissed as Italy's coach after the World Cup, is reported to have signed a three-year deal with Perugia of Serie A. Maldini, 65, is guaranteed the coach's post next season but he will take over later this season if Darlo Castagner departs.



Team talk
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The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Angel is brought to earth

Chris Hawkins

ANGEL Monserrate, the American "amateur" jockey, was banned from riding and all licensed racing establishments for 10 years by the Jockey Club's Disciplinary Committee yesterday.

Monserrate, a 29-year-old Puerto Rican, rode five winners on the Flat last season under the bogus surname of Jacobs and admitted misleading the authorities over his amateur status.

The committee found him guilty of behaving in a way "prejudicial to the integrity, proper conduct and good reputation of horseracing in Great Britain." The ban applies in all 70 other racing nations.

Monserrate, currently working in a Cambridge restaurant, commented: "I regret what I did. I don't know if the punishment is harsh but I will not appeal."

He was exposed as an imposter following a successful spell as an amateur, claiming a 7lb allowance, after being granted a licence by the British Amateur Jockeys' Association.

Investigations revealed that "Jacobs" was in fact Angel Monserrate, who had been a professional jockey in the States until banned for failing a drugs test in 1995. A year later he was in trouble again when he was found to be riding under the name of Carlos Castro. He was charged with criminal trespass, forgery and tampering with a sporting event.

He came to Britain in September of last year, settling at Soham, Cambridgeshire, with his wife Lisa whose maiden name is Jacobs. He began riding work at Newmarket and rode his first winner on the Willie Musson-trained Bold Faith at Newbury in June.

Monserrate's polished style stood out in the amateur ranks and it was only a matter of time before his credentials were questioned.

His photograph was sent to Dick Milburn, secretary of the Amateur Riders' Club of America, who unearthed his true identity.

Neal Wilkins, the Press Association's chief starting price reporter, has been rebailed to appear at Charing Cross Police Station on January 28 with regard to investigations into conspiracy to defraud.

The inquiry is concerned with the alleged shortening of starting price returns. Wilkins, arrested on July 27, attended Charing Cross yesterday but has not been charged and maintains his innocence.



Angel shown no mercy ... Angel Monserrate leaves the Jockey Club after receiving a 10-year ban ALASTAIR GRANT

Osborne cleared of all allegations

LEADING jump jockey Jamie Osborne has finally been cleared by the Crown Prosecution Service of any involvement with race-fixing or doping, *writes Chris Hawkins.*

Osborne was arrested, together with two others jockeys, last January and placed on bail as investigations by the Metropolitan Police took place throughout the summer. He was released without charge on October 5 but his papers were sent on to the CPS.

"I always knew that this day would come but it has been a long time coming," said Osborne. "I'm absolutely delighted. It was always going to be a formality from October 6 but I'm disappointed at the length of time the whole inquiry has taken."

Leighton Aspell, one of the other riders arrested, has also been cleared but Dean Gallagher is still on police bail.

Osborne was out of action with a broken wrist for nearly a year but made a successful comeback on Coome Hill at Ascot on October 31.

Osborne is at Ascot this afternoon where he has the chance of a double on Punch Bowl Handicap Chase and Acrion (3.40).

Racing results

SEDGEFIELD

1.10 (2m 5f) 1, LORD PAT, F Leahy (11–4 fav); 2, Harkness Warrior (7–1); 3, Boston Man (16–1); 4, Selinger (12–1). 19 ran. 3/4, 7, nk. (Miss Kate Milligan) Tote: £3.30; £1.30, £2.60, £2.60. £2.30. Dual F: £53.00. CSF: £20.49. Tricast: £166.79.

1.40 (3m 5f) 1, COUNTRY ORCHID, M H Naughton (5–2 fav); 2, Redsarpour (7–1); 3, Nijmegen (14–1). 9 ran. 2, 11, (Mrs M Reveley) Tote: £3.00; £1.90, £1.80, £2.30. Dual F: £16.00. CSF: £17.92. Tricast: £73.10. NRs: Ourano, Irish Wildcard.

2.10 (2m 8f) 1, HOUSE CAPTAIN, R Garrity (3–1 co fav); 2, Into The Black (6–1); 3, Nesom (16–1). 5–1 co fav Ravoli, Tonl'a Tip. 12 ran. 11, 16. (J F Lacey) Tote: £4.30; £1.60, £2.50, £1.90. Dual F: £10.30. CSF: £26.72.

2.40 (3m 3f) 1, ZAMHARERI, Mrs C Ford (7–4 fav); 2, Up And Over (20–1); 3, Kittochside Lad (12–1). 13 ran. 6, 3. (R Ford) Tote: £2.60; £1.30, £7.30, £3.40. Dual F: £31.20. CSF: £41.33. Tricast: £334.39.

3.10 (3m 110yds) 1, GRUMMY'S SAGA, R Supple (7–2); 2, Corbiere (25–1); 3, Queensway (6–1). 6–4 fav Xalpoto. 8 ran. 2, 2. (Mrs Mary Tate) Tote: £8.50; £1.60, £5.50. £1.70. Dual F: £40.50. CSF: £93 11. Tricast: £304.01.

3.40 (3m 3f 110yds) 1, VALIGAN, R Supple (100–30); 2, Mr Maddo (20–1); 3, Donnegale (33–1). 4–5 fav Iggy Loutse. 11 ran. 13, 6. (J Lamp) Tote: £3.00; £1.80, £6.40. £14.60. Dual F: £81.10. CSF: £68.19.

JACKPOT: £6,184.50.

PLACEPOT: £413.00.

QUADPOT: £120.90.

WARWICK

12.55 (2m 3f): 1, NORTHERN MAESTRO, J Goldsmith (12–1); 2, Nankind (20–1); 3, The Fiddler (12–1). 4, Chopin (7–1). 6–1 fav Sweet Trentino. 16 ran. 2, 2. (J Mackie) Tote: £16.00; £2.40, £11.70, £3.40. £1.70. Dual F: £223.80. CSF: £218.29. Tricast: £2,693.60 NR: Balmoral Princess.

1.25 (2m 4f 110yds) 1, KING ON THE RUN, A Maguire (13–8 fav); 2, Barbaie Boy (20–1); 3, Sea Vixen (100–30). 5 ran. 5, 6. (D Nicholson) Tote: £2.90; £1.20, £3.10. £1.40. Dual F: £18.90. CSF: £23.00.

2.00 (3m) 1, COOL GUNNER, T J Murphy (9–1); 2, Get Real (10–11 fav); 3, Santos Cavalier (7–1). 4 ran. 3, 30. (J King) Tote: £5.60. Dual F: £5.90. CSF: £16.81.

2.30 (2m 4f 110yds) 1, COUNTRY HOUSE, M A Fitzgerald (11–2); 2, Skipcart (5–1); 3, Wilmott's Fancy (5–1). Evens fav Mysiore. 17 ran. 8, 9. (J Old) Tote: £5.90, £2.20, £2.40, £1.60. Dir. £21.20 CSF £42.82

3.00 (3m 5f) 1, MACGEORGE, M A Fitzgerald (6–1); 2, Yorkshiff Express (2–1 fav); 3, Caribou Gold (6–1). 7 ran. 6, 6. (R Lee) Tote: £10.00; £3.60, £2.10. Dual F: £9.20. CSF: £21.90.

3.30 (2m) 1, ARTADOIN LAD, D Leahy (6–5 fav); 2, Prince Saber (8–1); 3, Professor Devil (14–1). 10 ran. 2¼, 4. (Mrs J Pitman) Tote: £2.50; £1.20, £2.00. £4.00. Dual Forecast: £7.60. CSF: £8.47. NR: Isca Maiden, Schmooze.

PLACEPOT: £303.80.

QUADPOT: £58.20.

WINCANTON

1.20 (2m) 1, BRUSH WITH TIME, W Marston (11–1); 2, Red Guard (14–1); 3, Kraisiesmik (33–1). 8 ran. Hd, 15. (Mrs S Williams) Tote: £12.90; £3.00, £4.30. £7.90. Dual F: £91.80. CSF: £142.87. Tricast: £1,437.13 NR: Multi Franchise

1.50 (3m 8fy 1, OVER THE WATER, A Thornton (1–2 fav); 2, Kentish Bard (5–2); 3, Black Spring (12–1). 5 ran 2, 30 (R Lee) Tote: £1.60, £1.20, £1.10. Dual F: £2.10. CSF: £2.12.

2.20 (3m 5f) 1, BUCK'S PALACE, J Tizzard (10–11 fav); 2, Goodtime George (7–4); 3, Upham Lord (9–2). 4 ran. hk. 7 (P Nicholls) Tote: £1.90 Dual F £1.70 CSF: £2.77

2.50 (3m 1f 110yds) 1, CALLING WILD, J Tizzard (13–8 fav); 2, Mandalus (3–1); 3, Royal Barge (8–1). 4 ran. 7, 21. (P Nicholls) Tote: £2.30. Dual Forecast £2 90 CSF: £6.13.

3.20 (2m 5f): 1, KING OF SPARTA, C Maude (14–1); 2, Piper's Rock (8–1); 3, Regis (5–1). 5–2 fav Fourth Line. 14 ran. 2, 2k. (J Portman) Tote: £18.70; £3 60, £3.70, £1.80. Dual F: £39 20 Trifecta £437.10 CSF: £106.33. Tricast: £595 91. NR: Reagonesque.

3.50 (2m) 1, EASTER ROSS, J R Kavanagh (3–1); 2, Darakshan (10–1); 3, Dragon King (6–1) 11–4 fav Hay Dance 8 ran 2¾ 5 (N Hawke) Tote: £4.30; £1.60, £4.60. £1.40. Dual F: £28 60. CSF £28.61. Tricast: £183.07

PLACEPOT: £434 20

QUADPOT: £14 20.

● MACGEORGE was clipped to 25–1 from 40–1 for the Martell Grand National by Coral after his impressive success under top weight in the Shipston Handicap Chase at Warwick, yesterday.

But Richard Lee, the eight-year-old's trainer, warned "I don't know where we will go with him now, but the Welsh National is an option

"I would like to think of him as an Aintree National horse, though not next year, unless he was very well and then I might have to try and persuade the owners to go there.

"I was worried that this course might be a bit too sharp for him, but he did it well."

Results

Football

AVON INSURANCE COMB: First Div
Postponed: C Palace v Northampton.
FRENCH LEAGUE: Monaco 0 Bordeaux 2.

Golf

WORLD CUP OF GOLF (Gulf Harbour, north of Auckland, NZ): **First-round scores: 134 Japan** (Y Imano 64, M Kuasabe 70). **137 South Africa** (D Frost 66, N Henning 71). **138 Sweden** (P Sjoland 68, M Gronberg 70); **Australia** (P O'Malley 69, R Green 69). **139 Italy** (C Rocca 68, M Florioli 74); **Zimbabwe** (M McNulty 67, T Johnstone 72). **Ireland** (P McGinley 67, P Herrington 72). **140 United States** (J Day 70, S Verplank 70). **Chile** (R Mac Kenzie 68, G Encina 72). **Canada** (J Leggat 69, R Goetz 71). **141 France** (T Level 69, J-van de Velde 72). **England** (N Faldo 68, D Carter 73). **142 Argentina; Malaysia. Germany. Wales** (I Woosnam 70, P Price 72). **Scotland** (A Collart 70, C Montgomerie 72). **Colombia 145 New Zealand 146 Paraguay. Austria; Norway 147 Spain. 148 Brazil. Switzerland. 149 Denmark. 151 South Korea. 152 Jamaica. Venezuela. Mexico 159 Luxembourg. 165 Netherlands.**

EUROPEAN TOUR QUALIFYING SCHOOL (San Roque and Sotogrande, Spain). **Second-round scores** (GB/Ire unless stated): **137 R Drummond 72, 67. T Nystrom** (Swe) 66, 71. **138 S Hurley 68, 70; P Magnebeni** (Swe) 68, 69. **139 C Wood** (Sp) 66, 73, J Nutt (Ven) 69, 70. **140 I Hutchings 72, 68. G Ogilvy** (Aus) 69, 71; **C Rendes** (Sp) 69, 72. **141 E Cervera** (Sp) 75, 66; **R-J Dahlsen** (Nzld) 70, 71; **C Watts** (Arg) 72, 69; **I Wade** (Aus) 74, 67. **C Monsteslo** (Arg) 73, 68; **B Dredge 71, 70. 142 A Bonhomme** (Aus) 67, 75. **G J Brand 72, 70, P Way 70, 72, A McLardy** (SA) 72, 70; **S Talbot** (Can) 73, 69. **M Lundberg** (Swe) 69, 73. **J Seiberg** (Swe) 70, 72. **A Dinsdh** (Ir) 71, 71. **143 S Richardson 73, 70. J Arnfi** (Sp) 71, 72. **J Quinze** (Sp) 71, 72. **A McLean 73, 65. J Rystrom** (Swe) 74, 69. **N King 74, 69; J Grieve** (Fr) 70, 73. **144 S Hamilton** (Ire) 70, 74, **N Blomstad** (Nor) 73, 71. **R Bain 75, 69. J Robinson 75, 69. S Wakefield 70, 74. B Teixeira** (Fr) 76, 68. **P Wardell 72, 72. R Benitez** (Sp) 73, 71. **146 P Linhart** (Sp) 72, 73. **D Borrago** (Sp) 74, 71. **E Little 72, 73. M Welch 76, 70. J Aher** (Swe) 73, 72. **D Pelt 73, 72, M Pilkington 73, 72. O Seiberg** (Swe) 76, 69. **A Saito** (Sp) 73, 72. **S Nelson** (US) 73, 72. **M Reale** (It) 73, 72. **A Hansen** (Den) 73, 72. **G Hoare** (Arg) 71, 74. **147 M Riley** (Aus) 70, 76. **N Borrell 74, 73. D Rousilhat** (Fr) 72, 74. **I Diner** (Sp) 73, 73. **K Storgaard** (Den) 74, 72. **K Brink** (Swe) 72, 74; **K Jones 72, 74; D Lynn 78, 68. H P Thual** (Ger) 76, 70; **N Ludwell 75, 71; S Johnson** (US) 73, 73. **A Sobrinho** (Pan) 74, 72. **R Lee 76, 70. N Roderick 77, 69. J M Carriles** (Sp) 73, 73; **M Backhausen** (Den) 73, 73. **M Brier** (Aus) 75, 71; **P Winston 74, 72. E Rawlings 73, 73. M Bland** (It) 74, 72; **C Lavrain** (Ven) 76, 70. **S Hurd 73, 73. S Conte-Rossi** (Por) 74, 72. **147 G Doad** (Aus) 72, 75; **N Kalougurine** (Fr) 72, 75. **B Scallan** (Nz) 73, 74; **I Pyman 72, 78. I Pusilier 74, 73. G Hamerton 72, 76. J Pemsey** (Fr) 72, 76. **A Lindberg** (Swe) 76, 72. **N O'Hern** (Aus) 76, 71; **K Eriksson** (Swe) 73, 74. **N Preston 78, 69. B Hull** (US) 72, 75. **T Manoz** (Sp) 74, 73. **Y Maxwell 74, 73. C Ronald 77, 70. A Cruse** (SA) 75, 72. **D R Jones 73, 74. F Cuellar** (Fr) 74, 73. **148 R Bjoberg** (Swe) 76, 72. **R Muscroft 74, 74; A Clapp 74, 74. S Bennett 77, 71. C Sullesen** (Sp) 76, 75. **L Tingvall** (Swe) 71, 77; **K Caristoni** (US) 76, 75. **E Bouit** (NZ) 76, 72. **149 L Parsons** (Aus) 76, 74; **R Jimenez** (Sp) 71, 78. **L Alejandro** (Fr) 80, 69. **J Bevan 74, 75. S Watson 79, 70. P Golding 73, 76; C Cowser** (Fr) 75, 74. **N O'Grady** (US) 75, 74. **G Emerson 76, 74. A Sandywell 80, 69; R Wragg 74, 75. N Vanhoobjegem** (Bel) 71, 78. **M Benner** (US) 78, 71; **R Johnson** (Swe) 73, 78. **150 B Aher** (NZ) 78, 74. **M Brandsson** (Swe) 77, 73. **M Urquhart 77, 73. F Herge** (Swe) 80, 70. **G Furey 79, 71. S Downton 78, 72. A Bennett 77, 73. S Dodd 74, 76. M Persson** (Swe) 77, 73. **G Call** (It) 75, 72. **A Pelt 77, 73. S Withop** (Ger) 77, 73. **S Laycock** (Aus) 74, 76. **L Wallenhed** (Aut) 79, 72. **K Lebouc** (Fr) 78, 73. **A Marshall 76, 75. J M Lara** (Sp) 77, 74. **A Karaikonen** (Fin) 76, 72. **S Webster 81, 70. C Gray** (Aus) 79, 72. **J Rose 76, 73. R Bland 73, 79. O Eliasson** (Swe) 79, 73; **N Turley 78, 76. H Feith** (Swe) 79, 73. **S McAllister 77, 75. C Van der Velde** (Neth) 76, 76. **D Silva** (Por) 77, 75. **C Brooks 74, 78. J Carvill 75, 77. 151 L Thompson 79, 74. N Kraay** (Natn) 76, 77. **R Binney 78, 77. P Nilbrink 76, 75. F Larsson** (Swe) 80, 73. **M Olander** (Swe) 75, 77. **P Hopkinson** (Swe) 78, 75; **S Wilkinson 76, 77. J Hawksworth 81, 72. M Hantanen** (Fin) 75, 78. **154 F Howley 74, 80. R Arrott 78, 76. R Titworth 80, 74. J Hepworth 81, 73. M Blackey 79, 75. P Gordinstein** (Swe) 78, 75. **J Greaves 77, 77. R Wiggins 76, 78. B King** (Aus) 80, 74. **M Besancenay** (Fr) 77, 77. **155 S Liddle** (SA) 80, 75. **N Van Rensburg** (SA) 78, 77. **K Vanista** (Fin) 78, 77; **G Hutchison 77, 78. T Edlund** (Swe) 78, 77. **156 M McLean 80, 76; D Mooney 78, 77. M Pendarles** (Fr) 79, 77. **157 S Taylor 85, 72. 158 P Archer 78, 83. J Grohhagen** (Swe) 80, 78. **Retired: R Coles.**

AUSTRALIAN PGA C'SHIP (Sydney) **Leading first-round scores** (Aus unless stated): **69 T Price. D Howell** (GB) 70. **S Ames** (Trin) 71. **C Gaunt, A Wall** (GB) 72. **A Painter, M Allen. 73 G Coles; S Owen** (NZ); **T Mills; C Warren; K Druce; R Schmitz; S Allen; W Grady. Also: 77 R Russell** (Scot). **78 B Davis** (Eng). **82 C Goodall** (Scot). **88 S Webster** (Eng).

DUNLOP PHOENIX TOURNAMENT (Miyazaki, Japan): **Leading first-round scores** (Japanese unless stated): **66 R Kawagishi. 67 Y Kaneko. 68 K Yokoo; T Tanigucki. L Westwood** (GB). **7 Ashikme: E Ers** (SA). **Also: 72 D Clarke** (GB).

PGA GRAND SLAM MATCHPLAY (Poipu Bay, Hawaii): **Championship match: T Woods** (US) bt **V Singh** (Fij) 2up. **Third-place match: L Janssen** (US) bt **M D Moore** (US) 1up.

Tennis

ATP WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP (Connecticut): **Round-robins: J Black/V Pascut** (Zim) bt **J Eagle/A Florent** (Aus) 6–4, 6–4; **D Johnson/F Montana** (US) bt **M Bhupathi/L Paes** (Ind) 6–3, 6–4. **7–5 O Delatt/F Santoro** (Fr) bt **M Woodforde/T Woodbridge** (Aus) 6–7, 6–3, 6–4. **M Knowles/D Nestor** (Bah) bt **S Stolle/C Spek** (Aus/Ct) 2–6, 6–4, 6–3.

WTA CHASE CHAMPIONSHIPS (New York): **First round: L Davenport** (US) bt **S Testud** (Fr) 4–6, 7–6, 6–0. **M Seles** (US) bt **A Rosmilove** (Rus) 6–4, 6–2. **M Pierce** (Fr) bt **A Coetzer** (SA) 6–1, 6–0.

WTA OPEN TOURNAMENT (Pattaya, Thai): **Second round: S Vaidi** (Cro) bt **S Ding** (China) 6–4, 6–0. **G Barabanschikova** (Bela) bt **M Weingartner** (Ger) 6–3, 5–7 rtl. **T Tanasugarn** (Thai) bt **J Lee** (Taipe) 6–2, 7–5. **L Pang** (China) bt **M Seeki** (Japan) 6–2, 6–0.

BRITISH NATIONAL C'SHIPS (Telford) **Men: Second rounds: D Sapsford** (Surrey) bt **P Hand** (Berks) 7–6, 6–0. **T Spinks** (Norfolk) bt **A Pearce** (Herts) 6–7, 6–3, 6–4. **N Lee** (Sussex) bt **G Henderson** (Yorks) 6–4, 6–1. **N Hilton** (Jersey) bt **S Bennett** (Herts & Worcs) 7–5, 7–6. **Women: Quarter-finals: S Smith** (Essex) bt **A Tordoff** (Kent) 6–4, 6–2. **J Wood** (Middx) bt **L Ahl** (Dev) 6–2, 6–2. **L Latimer** (Wor) bt **L Woodroffe** (Surrey) 6–2, 7–5. **J Pellin** (Sussex) bt **L Perkins** (Dur & Cleve) 6–2, 7–5

Chess

OWENS CORNINGS INTERNATIONAL (Wrexham): **Round Two: R Dingley** (Wales) 1½ **Pedersen** (Den) 0. **T Wall** (Eng) 0 **C Ward** (Eng) 1. **A Webster** (Eng) 1 **E Matthewsky** (US) 0. **Drawns: S Brynell** (Swe) v **T Thorhallsson** (Ice): **A Kinsman** (Eng) v **V Jansa** (Cz). **Leaders: Ward** (3), **Thorhallsson, Jansa** 1¾.

WORLD SENIOR C'SHIP (Griesheichen, Aust): **Round Eight: D Callesty** (Eng) 0 **M Talmanov** (Rus) 1. **Cafferty** disbanded in a won endgame. **Leaders: S Ivkov** (Yugo). **V Bagirov** (Lat). **Y Kraidman** (Isr). **W Uhlmann** (Ger) 6½. **Also: Cafferty** 5

WORLD JUNIOR C'SHIP (Calicut, India): **Round Two: Boys: L Frenaiver** (Fr) 0 **S Williams** (Eng) 1; **M Houska** (Eng) 1 **V Kemble** (Ind) 0. **Leaders: Williams, Houska and 11 others** 2/2. **Girls: R Bludon** (Eng) **K M Bobrowska** (Pol) ½ **S Vijayalakshmi** (Ind) 1. **J Houska** (Eng) 0. **Big leaders** (Vaishnavi 3, India, Poland, China) 2/2. **Also: Sheldon** 1½; **Houska** 1.

Basketball

MEN'S EUROLEAGUE: Group C: Ulkerspor 79 Olympiakos Piraeus 69. CSKA Moscow 66 Zadar 58. Group D: Samara 88 Real Madrid 109.

Ice Hockey

NHL: Washington 4 Toronto 1; Edmonton 2 Detroit 6. Phoenix 4 Vancouver 2. Anaheim 3 NY Rangers 1; San Jose 5 LA 4.

Snooker

UK CHAMPIONSHIP (Bournemouth): **First round: G Henn** (Aus) bt **B Bradbon** (Scot) **9–8. Second rounds: T Murphy** (Ire) bt **I. Richardson** (Eng) **9–3; M Campbell** (Scot) bt **S Hendry** (Scot) **9–0.**

Fixtures

(7.45 unless stated)

Football

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Third Division: Mansfield v Barnet

FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier Division: Shamrock Rvrs v Shelbourne; St Patrick's Athl v Derry C

Rugby Union

ANGLO-WELSH FRIENDLIES: Leicester v Swansea.

TENNENT'S VELVET PREMIERSHIPS: Second Division: Wasps v Bigger (7.15). **AIB LEAGUE: Second Divisions: Old Wesley v Wanderers** (7.0).

● London's bid to bring the 2003 athletics world championships to a re-vamped Wembley stadium received a massive boost when Paris did not receive a single vote in the 2001 edition was awarded to Edmonton, Canada, last night, *writes Duncan Mackay in Monte Carlo.* French athletics were considering withdrawing from any contest with London after being so spectacularly ignored

● Wigan are today expected to announce a new contract with Barry Connolly, ending speculation that the Great Britain centre might switch codes before next year's rugby union World Cup, *writes Andy Wilson.* Connolly's existing contract with Wigan expires next June

Exeter runners and riders

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
12.50	Arctic Chanter	Arctic Chanter
1.20	Life's Work	Life's Work
1.55	Sounds Like Fun	Sounds Like Fun
2.30	Good Lord Murphy	Holdthecsse
3.00	Elegant Des Cosses	Elegant Des Cosses
3.30	Pepe Khartoms	Pepe Khartoms
4.00	Backaddin Cameo	———

Undulating, testing, right-handed circuit of 2m with 300yds run-in.
Going: Soft. Good to Soft in place. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Seven day winners: 3.30 Pepe Khartoms
Blinkered first time: None. Visored: 1.20 Life's Work, Dancing Poser.

12.50 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 1f £1,786 (13 declared)

1 2P018F Quelgas Chase (BRA) (97) B J Llewellan 5-11-10 ..... D Salter —
2 6513-5 Miss Master (118) R Frost 5-11-2 ..... T O'Connor (5) 81
3 (7)1-4 Arctic Chanter (21) (C) P Hobbs 5-11-0 ..... R Widger (5) ⊕93
4 60629P Golden Waltz (SWI) J Hack 5-10-12 ..... M Dibble —
5 21378- Uncle Benedict (CZE) E Taylor 11-10-3 ..... S Griffiths 93
6 0202P Silkstone (IRE) Miss H Day 5-10-1 ..... D O'Sullivan (5) —
7 2304-P Mike 'n Rose (IRE) B Llewellyn 8-10-0 ..... Michael Brennan 73
8 1UF-1B Kennedy's Medic (IRE) (97) N J Hawke 6-10-0 ..... B Darke 84
9 53085F Perfectly Lady (97) A Barrow 5-10-0 ..... M Batchelor 86
10 2P47- Perfekin (IRE) J Bradock 13-10-0 ..... R Shoemark 76
11 21030- Dancing Sunset (113) (C) (G) R Baker 5-10-0 ..... G Bevan 93
12 PP70- Edwardian (IRE) A D Smith 6-10-0 ..... S Supple —
13 635-P0 Lady Dee (IRE) Mrs C Rice 8-10-0 ..... G McPhail ★ 70

Betting: 3-1 Arctic Chanter, 7-2 Uncle Benedict, 6-1 Kennedy's Medic, 7-1 Blue Baron, Perfectly Lady, 8-1 Perfekin.

1.20 BONUSPHOTO NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 6f £2,490 (14 declared)

1 3P134 Water Flower (17) (G) M Pipe 4-11-10 ..... G Maude ★ 84
2 340-21 Life's Work (97) (C) Pobbs 6-11-10 ..... R Dunwoody ★ ⊕90
3 622P Theroplin (USA) H Hallen 7-11-4 ..... M Richards —

1.35 FUNCH BOWL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE
3m 110yds £6,808 (7 declared)

291 5/2113 Haunting Music (92) Mrs A Pewell
10-11-10 ..... M A Fitzgerald 81
292 0151-2 Young Tonno (47) J Howard Johnson 6-11-0 ..... P Carberry 86
293 2363-1 Dublin Dukes (166) (G) M Hammond 6-10-12 ..... R Sterling ⊕92
294 43-333 Wee Leaf (GB) D Gandolfo 5-10-7 ..... C Osborne 86
295 -15544 White Diamond (99) (G) Dr P Pritchard
10-10-5 ..... Dr P Pritchard 87
296 0-P436 Martin City (21) M Pitman 8-10-3 ..... R Williamson ⊕ 84
003-02 Rambling Bear (9) (G) J Gazley 6-10-0 ..... S Clifford 86

Betting: 6-2 Dublin Dukes, 3-1 Wee Leaf, 7-2 Young Tonno, 5-1 Haunting Music, 10-1 Rambling Bear, 12-1 White Diamond, Marble City.

2.10 BISON GROUP 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE
3m £3,810 (7 declared)

301 Bunbury K Bailey 5-10-12 ..... R Williamson —
302 10/ Edge Allend (IRE) Mrs D Haine 6-10-12 ⊕ A Fitzgerald —
303 05- Holborn (IRE) (81) C Mann 5-10-12 ..... J Regan —
304 0009P-5 Jurbises Alexa (GB) D Nicholson 5-10-12 ..... R Johnson 76
305 43 Heavy Boy (IRE) (G) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-12 ..... R Farrant 71
306 5F1-5 Fairfield Lady (IRE) (G) S Shirwood 5-10-12 ..... D Bradley ⊕90
307 20-49P The Blues (IRE) J Pervert 7-10-7 ..... D Gresch (7) 92

Betting: 6-4 Fairfield Lady, 3-1 Bunbury, 5-1 Edge Ahead, 7-1 Heavy Boy, 8-1 Jurbises Alexa, 12-1 Holborn Hill, 20-1 The Blues.

2.40 PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS ASCOT HURDLE
2m 4f £15,700 (7 declared) BBC2

401 1131-2 Flyer's Lad (IRE) (97) P Haslam 5-11-7 ..... A Thornton 86

KEEPING TRACK
09064 700 +
RACING CALL
COMMENTARY RESULTS
ASCOT 141 151
EXETER 142 152
SOUTHWELL 143 153
ALL COURSES COMMENTARY 09064 700 140
ALL COURSES RESULTS 09064 700 150
CALLS COST 60P PER MINUTE AT ALL TIMES. TO LIVE, A RACE PHONE, LONDON EC3A 4PP.
The Guardian INTERACTIVE

4 -14312 Mirrahem (93) (G) B Hanl 5-11-1 ..... S Burrough 86
5 03/9-3 Topanga (13) M Braddock 6-10-9 ..... H Bradstone (5) 87
6 130- Pardon (Fr) P Rolfe 4-10-3 ..... S Durack 78
7 23/-P1 Beveller Revival (81) Mrs J Dixon 6-10-1 ..... J Supple 88
8 40/050 Dancing Poser (9) G Balding 6-10-0 ..... Mr R Arnold ★ 77
9 70-33P Ryhallenber (5) Mrs S Watts 6-10-0 ..... K Byrne ★ 87
10 20F-59 Rathbeal Dancer (8) R Frost 5-10-0 ..... Mr A Bradburne 84
11 003-59 Lisa Street Blues (99) T Keddy 7-10-0 ..... D Leahy 91
12 022-0Z Sedgemoor Wolf (44) K Bailey 5-10-0 ..... S Durack 84
13 00050- Samsalee (29) R Rackley 7-10-0 ..... S Perrett 76
14 00P0- Flirtey Bale (101) J Smith 6-10-0 ..... W Marston —

Betting: 11-4 Life's Work, 7-2 Beveller Revival, 9-2 Mirrahem, 7-1 Water Flower, 10-1 Topanga, Redgrave Wolf.

1.55 BONUSPRINT HANDICAP CHASE
2m 3f £4,362 (4 declared)

1 13P31/ Weyward King (218) (G) R Hodges 6-11-13 ..... T Dascombe 88
2 1221-2 Seconds Like Fun (13) (G) (BF) Miss H Knight 7-11-11 ..... J Culloty ⊕93
3 132P-4 Mr Playful (17) (G) R Frost 5-10-12 ..... J Frost 86
4 9F97/1 Twin Falls (22) (G) P Hobbs 7-10-5 ..... R Dunwoody ★ 93

Betting: 5-4 Seconds Like Fun, 5-2 Twin Falls, 3-1 Weyward King, 8-1 Mr Playful.

2.30 TRIPLEPRINT NOVICE CHASE
2m 6f 110yds £3,782 (9 declared)

1 1222/1 Ask Antony (98) P Hamdin 8-11-0 ..... G Maude —
2 2F111- Silkwood (128) (G) H Daly 6-11-0 ..... S Wynne —
3 11214- Good Lord Murphy (201) (G) P Hobbs 5-11-0 ..... R Dunwoody —
4 2034-3 Hobbithouse (18) (G) (BF) P Hamdin 6-11-0 ..... J Culloty ⊕88
5 000597 Lukar Boy (127) J McConnochie 5-11-0 ..... D Fortt —
6 F1- Mr Perkopay (208) Lord Tyrone 7-11-0 ..... J Culloty —
7 013- Hot Reality (208) (G) (BF) Lady Herschel-Smith 7-11-0 ..... J A McCarthy —
8 53/P-P Parade Ruler (16) R Rackley 7-11-0 ..... W Marston —
9 9281-2 Sally Lou (16) (G) P Rodford 6-10-9 ..... S Burrough 74

Betting: 13-8 Edmond, 15-8 Good Lord Murphy, 13-2 Ask Antony, 10-1 Hobbithouse, Sally Lou, 14-1 Hot Reality.

3.00 DOUBLEPRINT NOVICE HURDLE
2m 1f £2,837 (11 declared)

1 Alkaline (FR3) Mrs G Kelloway 5-10-12 ..... R Thornton —
2 09 Dashake (15) J Bailey 4-10-12 ..... S Bally (5) —
3 20- Dewberry Pippy (300) (BF) J Old 5-10-12 ..... G Supple —
4 F200-3 Elegant Des Cosses (17) (G) P Hobbs 6-10-12 ..... R Dunwoody ★ ⊕90
5 6 Falcon Ridge (11) Miss E Lavelle 4-10-12 ..... J Culloty 84
6 Khawarridge G Balding 5-10-12 ..... S Fox —
7 8-5 Moneyminer (97) S Sherwood 6-10-12 ..... D Gallagher 88
8 19 Mr Perfecto (16) (G) R Frost 5-10-12 ..... J Frost —
9 49F- Solidism (208) R Allen 5-10-7 ..... R Widger (7) —
10 19- Taskmaster (61) H Hinn 4-10-7 ..... W Marston 84
11 0040-0 Takethebreath (34) J King 5-10-7 ..... L Cummins (5) 68

Betting: 2-1 Elegant Des Cosses, 7-2 Mariglebrae, 9-2 Alkaline, 5-1 Dewberry Pippy, 12-1 Mr Perfecto, 14-1 Khawarridge, 16-1 Solidism, Takethebreath.

3.30 DOUBLEPRINT HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 3f £2,843 (5 declared)

1 60h-11 Pepe Khartoms (7) P Hobbs 8-11-10 ..... R Dunwoody ⊕90
2 61010- Storm Dust (13) (GB) Miss H Knight 8-11-10 ..... J Culloty —
3 0241 Storm Wind (104) D Sherwood 7-11-3 ..... J A McCarthy —
4 14-552 Powerful Pendragon (17) D Gandolfo 6-10-12 ..... J Frost 77
5 2404-4 Alnal Bell II (18) S Ancliffe 7-10-4 ..... W Marston ★ —

Betting: 8-11 Pepe Khartoms, 11-4 Powerful Pendragon, 6-1 Storm Wind, 10-1 Storm Dust, 25-1 Alnal Bell II.

4.00 LEVY BOARD MARES' ONLY STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
2m 1f £1,287 (12 declared)

1 r- Black Secret (GER) (G) C Egerton 5-11-7 ..... J A McCarthy —
2 43-1 Backdrop Canvas (17) P Nicholls 6-11-7 ..... L Cummins (5) —
3 Bel Marchesa (17) Mrs P Sly 6-11-0 ..... J Culloty —
4 0- Brownsmoke (218) Mrs P Dunfield 5-11-0 ..... S Durack —
5 - Connor Forest Mrs C Hicks 4-11-0 ..... S Bradley —
6 0 Supa Rocket (17) P Day 5-11-0 ..... R Thornton —
7 0- Whenever (199) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-0 ..... D Leahy —
8 0 Just Madri (12) J Mullins 6-11-0 ..... J Culloty —
9 0- Lady Cash (278) D Gandolfo 5-11-0 ..... S Wynne —
10 Mayday Dancer G Balding 5-11-0 ..... S Fox —
11 0-3 Rathcarrig (8) J Neville 5-11-0 ..... R Dunwoody —
12 0 Sparkling Lass (ex) N Aylife 4-11-0 ..... G Maude —

Betting: 11-10 Black Secret, 2-1 Backdrop Canvas, 6-1 Rathcarrig, 14-1 Whenever, 16-1 Gaye Garden, Mayday Dancer, 25-1 Just Madri, Sparkling Lass.

Ascot Jackpot card

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
1.00	Estate Agent (nap)	Estate Agent
1.35	New Leaf	Celtic Duke
2.10	Twisted Logic	Twisted Logic (nap)
2.40	Kerzel	Khamraweel (nb)
3.10	Big Matt	Big Matt
3.40	Aarion (nb)	Aarion

Testing, right-handed triangular course of 1.5m with 240yds run-in, mostly uphill. Stiff finish.
Going: Good to Soft in places. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: None. Visored: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F:Fell.

1.00 RACING CHANNEL CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' NOVICE HURDLE
2m 4f £3,908 (8 declared)

101 48-221 Mysterio (13) P Hobbs 4-11-3 ..... S Hartigan (3) 99
102 45-272 Tudors Boy (13) (G) (BF) G Balding 5-11-9 ..... F Bentley (7) 92
2 Barton (11) R Dickin 4-11-4 ..... T Jarvis (7) 73
103 0/0 Deep Bay (16) M Pitman 5-11-4 ..... L Deacon (7) —
106 2150-2 Estate Agent (12) (BF) P Nicholls 5-11-4 ..... T Dascombe ⊕90
107 1304-P Jimmy Pearl (106) D Nicholson 5-11-4 ..... R Johnson 87
108 2110-2 Estate Agent (12) (BF) P Nicholls 5-11-4 ..... T Dascombe ⊕90
109 1304-P Jimmy Pearl (106) D Nicholson 5-11-4 ..... R Johnson 87
107 4-3 Silver Reindeer (29) R Rowe 5-11-4 ..... R McCarthy (7) —
109 02606 Royal Roller (11) J Gifford 7-10-13 ..... L Aspell 86

Betting: 11-8 Estate Agent, 11-4 Twilter Boy, 7-2 Mysterio, 8-1 Barton, 16-1 Rose Rockets, 20-1 Deep Bay, Royal Roller, 33-1 Jordan Point.

1.35 RACING CHANNEL CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HURDLE
2m 4f £3,908 (8 declared)

101 48-221 Mysterio (13) P Hobbs 4-11-3 ..... S Hartigan (3) 99
102 45-272 Tudors Boy (13) (G) (BF) G Balding 5-11-9 ..... F Bentley (7) 92
2 Barton (11) R Dickin 4-11-4 ..... T Jarvis (7) 73
103 0/0 Deep Bay (16) M Pitman 5-11-4 ..... L Deacon (7) —
106 2150-2 Estate Agent (12) (BF) P Nicholls 5-11-4 ..... T Dascombe ⊕90
107 1304-P Jimmy Pearl (106) D Nicholson 5-11-4 ..... R Johnson 87
107 4-3 Silver Reindeer (29) R Rowe 5-11-4 ..... R McCarthy (7) —
109 02606 Royal Roller (11) J Gifford 7-10-13 ..... L Aspell 86

Betting: 11-8 Estate Agent, 11-4 Twilter Boy, 7-2 Mysterio, 8-1 Barton, 16-1 Rose Rockets, 20-1 Deep Bay, Royal Roller, 33-1 Jordan Point.

3.10 GERRARD GROUP HANDICAP CHASE
2m 2f £9,285 (5 declared) BBC2

001 4F151- Big Matt (208) (GB) N Henderson
16-12-0 ..... M A Fitzgerald ⊕90
002 11113- Super Colin (228) (GB) (BF) R Lee 10-11-8 N Williamson 89
003 5221-0 Baron Albert (22) (GB) D Nicholson 12-11-6 ..... R Johnson 87
004 1FP-P8 Rok Warrior (17) (G) (C) Mann 7-11-4 ..... S Bradley —
005 2102-F Military Prince (20) (G) J Howard Johnson
7-10-13 ..... P Carberry 86

Betting: 8-4 Big Matt, 2-1 Super Colin, 9-2 Military Prince, 11-2 Baron Albert, 16-1 Rok Warrior.

FORM GUIDE - Big Matt: Hard ridden and ran on strongly to lead approaching last, won by 9 lengths from Lord Derby. Next season 2m hcp ch. Super Colin: Ran down the hill 10th, headway 4 out, 4th and beaten when mistake 2 out, 10 3rd of 8 to Bertram, with Big Matt (game 5lb) another 29l 5th, at Kelso 2m7f hcp ch, Gd-Sft. Baron Albert: Fired start last season, made all, beat Stanwyke a Toy 3¼ at Ascot, 2m hcp ch, Sft. Military Prince: Fell at the 3rd in mid-div won by Dontdoitthatwest, Rok Warrior (gave 5lb), hampered and pulled up at the 3rd, Storm Alert (gave 7lb), ran on and unseated rider same fence, at Kelso 2m hcp ch, Hy. Last season, Military Prince finished 4l 2nd to Direct Route at Ponz Nethaven 2m ch, Hy.

3.40 BISON GROUP HANDICAP HURDLE (9HCHCASE RACE)
2m 110yds £6,639 (6 declared) BBC2

691 11453 Ethiedust (20) (G) (BF) Miss V Williams
5-11-10 ..... H Williamson 85
692 130-45 Real Estate (13) (CD) D Nicholson 4-11-8 ..... R Johnson 71
693 /5433- Nikster Ran (SWE) (G) H Iverson-De-Mel
6-11-3 ..... G Llewellyn 73
694 61P-2 Papua (13) (D) I Balding 4-11-2 ..... B Fenton 80
695 111F Aarion (17) (D) (BF) D Sherwood 7-11-2 ..... J Osborne ⊕90
696 1843-1 Real Feal (16) (D) D Elsworth 7-10-5 ..... P Holley 79

Best early-morning prices: 6-4 Aarion (2), 3-1 Papua (4), 4-1 Ethiedust (4), 9-2 Real Estate (1), 6-1 Nikster Ran (3), 8-1 Real Feal (6). 7) 20-1 Real Estate II.. 1)
★ TODAY'S (Grand) JP PWR tips. (Ladbrokes)

FORM GUIDE - Ethiedust: Every chance 3 out, ridden and ran on one pace, 5l last of 3 behind Simone Cielle at Towcester 2m hcp hdle, Gd-Sft. Nikster Ran: Ridden to lead app last, soon headed and one pace, 40l 3rd of 7 bhd Nineten at Cheltenham 2m11f hcp hdle, Gd. Papua: Pulled strong 3 out, led next, ex-chance in th whn ran on, 8l 2nd of 7 behind Chak-Tik with Real Estate (gave 6lb) 33l away 5th, at Sandown 2m hcp hdle, Gd. Aarion: Chsd leading pair going well when 1st 3 out to next won by Glowing Pink at Exeter 2m1f hcp hdle, Sft. Real Feal: Held up, headway 4th, led last, ridden out, won by 13l from Advance Estate at Wincanton 2m hcp hdl, Gd.

Southwell (A.W.)

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
12.10	U-No-Harry	Finisterre
12.40	Court De Money	Menful
1.10	Moukarl	Moukarl
1.45	Krystal Max	Krystal Max
2.20	Palace Green	Lady Melbourne
2.50	Royal German	Birthday Venture
3.20	Centgetyoubreath	Irish Dream
3.50	Mutabaasir	Mutabaasir

All-weather, Fibresand, left-handed track of 1.5m with 3f run-in.
Going: Standard. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: High numbers best 1.45 & 2.20; Low numbers otherwise.
Blinkered first time: 12.40 Charming Admiral; 2.20 Golden Bill; 3.20 Grey Strike; 3.50 V I P Charlie. Visored: 1.10 Modest Hope; 3.50 Peter Perfect.

12.10 GREAT PONTON HANDICAP (DIV 1)
7f £2,484 (16 declared)

1 (14) 04500 Clakamon (7) S Gollnett 3-9-13 ..... M Fenton 74
2 (11) -20020 Dalton Rose (10) A Carroll 3-9-11 ..... M Tebbutt 70
3 (16) 300100 U-No-Harry (34) (CD) S Hollinshead 5-9-10 ..... D Gregory 76
4 (9) 300015 Pleasure (7) (D) A Smith 3-9-10 ..... R Pitchfords (5) 69
5 (6) 260304 Mustang (7) (D) C Thornton 5-9-9 ..... Dean McKeown ★ 69
6 (8) 502050 Kosmos (7) (CD) (BF) D Shaw 4-9-7 ..... R Winston (5) 74
7 (5) 032256 Racketeer (28) (D) J O'Neill 5-9-6 ..... K Fallon ⊕90
8 (15) -43005 Two Williams (66) M W Easterby
5-9-4 ..... S Finamore (7) 77
9 (3) 303300 Ebony Reading (76) (G) Mrs N Macauley 3-8-3 ..... R Price 77
10 (2) -26008 Mister Mummy (44) (D) J Jenkins 5-8-2 ..... A Whelan ⊕90
11 (7) 00020- Nebulon Man (202) S Bowring 5-8-0 ..... D Mernagh 74
12 (10) 036005 Lilandia (24) D Felton 3-8-0 ..... G Faulkner (5) 74
13 (13) 040600 Tyrannical Mystery (7) G Holmes 3-8-0 ..... Dale Gibson 76
14 (12) 000060 Executioner (46) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-0 ..... A Culhane 69
15 (12) 300053 Dalsolomon (8) J Bridger 3-8-12 ..... J Bramhill 80
16 (4) 036216 Richlieres (28) (D) J O'Neill 5-8-6 ..... K Fallon ⊕90

Betting: 7-2 Lady Melbourne, 9-2 Northern Svengali, 6-1 Dublin's Lad.

2.50 BRIDGETOWN MAIDEN STAKES 3YO
7f £2,892 (16 declared)

1 (12) 344020 Heh Neighbor (20) D French Davis 8-0 ..... M Fenton 80
2 (9) 600200 Bonnie Da Flix (149) S Woodhead 9-0 ..... L Newton 82
3 (14) 000408 Just Bobby (21) Eunice Inrisa 9-0 ..... Kim Tinkler 72
4 (5) 634005 Lorenzo (3) K Mahdi 9-0 ..... J Culloty 86
5 (7) 0400 Mark's Dream (181) A Carroll 9-0 ..... M Tebbutt 73
6 (13) Royal Germaen E Dunlop 9-0 ..... S Carter —
7 (2) 00 Soldier (26) R Hannon 9-0 ..... R D Watkins —
8 (1) Sharrdan Lad (3) Dawnmist 9-0 ..... R Perrett (5) —
9 (3) Bay View K Mahdi 9-0 ..... K Fallon —
10 (16) 3 Birthday Venture (22) S Hirsch 8-9 ..... Dane O'Neill ⊕90
11 (11) 4-0500 Miss Dave (41) S R Johnson 8-9 ..... J Carr 90
12 (11) 004000 Copper Cookie (29) M Pregleau 8-9 ..... J Tate —
13 (8) Jazzy Jill J Norton 8-9 ..... D Fortt —
Marina's Song S Bowring 8-9 ..... R Strange —
15 (10) 00060 Sahara Boulevard (24) (BF) M Channon 8-9 ..... A Culhane 70
16 (6) 0 Royal Regent (3) K Mahdi 8-9 ..... T G McLaughlin ⊕90

Betting: 9-4 Birthday Venture, 3-1 Royal German, 4-1 Heh Neighbor, 13-2 Miss Dave, 14-1 Sahara Boulevard, 16-1 Lorenzo, Mark's Dream, Spartan Lad, Bay View.

3.20 MANSFIELD SELLING STAKES 2YO
6f 21.96B (16 declared)

1 (14) 03623 Centgetyoubreath (9) B Meehan 8-11 ..... M Tebbutt ★ 89
2 (1) 03000 Encounter (39) J Hetherton 8-11 ..... Dean McKeown 71
3 (11) 4000003 Fourth Time Lucky (16) B Murray 8-11 ..... R Perrett —
4 (4) 0240008 Grey Strike (26) J Berry 8-11 ..... P Robarts (5) ⊕ 76
5 (13) 1500048 Irish Dream (32) (CD) T Easterby 8-11 ..... Dane O'Neill ⊕90
6 (7) 00 It's A Possibility (26) B R Johnson 8-11 ..... A Clark —
7 (10) 0660 Taz Marsh (60) S Bowring 8-11 ..... D Teague (5) 74
8 (5) 000 The Last Word (9) R Hollinshead 8-11 ..... A Culhane —
9 (6) 0260300 Tobalcido (7) D Nicholson 8-11 ..... Kim Tinkler 72
10 (15) 0 Blue D'Argent (7) W Muir 8-6 ..... T Eaves —
11 (2) 00 Esprit De Cower (109) A Mcavoy 8-6 ..... D Sweeney —
12 (12) Kirstall Park (14) J Wharton 8-6 ..... F Norton —
13 (3) 0645/6 Nicholas Alderson (9) P Evans 8-6 ..... T G McLaughlin ⊕90
14 (12) 00P400 Royal Tarragon (50) J Arnold 8-6 ..... J Fallon 73
15 (8) 4040000 Signalcrest (24) M Pavitt 8-6 ..... J Williams —
16 (9) 8440230 Zola Power (32) B L Moore 8-6 ..... S Whitworth 64

Betting: 3-1 Irish Dream, 5-1 Centgetyoubreath, Zola Power, 13-2 Encounter.

3.50 GREAT PONTON HANDICAP (DIV 2)
7f £2,484 (16 declared)

1 (9) 000300 V I P Charlie (7) (G) J Jenkins 4-9-13 ..... A McGlone ★ —
2 (5) 314104 Most Respectful (7) (C) N Tinkler 5-9-11 ..... Kim Tinkler 72
3 (12) 620100 Kamaweh (80) (C) R Harris 5-9-10 ..... T G McLaughlin ⊕90
4 (14) 000125 Theatre Royal (7) (CD) D Shaw 5-9-9 ..... J Fanning 69
5 (8) 205202 Teyrnsville (15) (CD) P Morrison 4-9-6 ..... C Rutter 69
6 (15) 000140 Orbi Gold (7) (D) M Ryan 5-9-5 ..... P McCabe 62
7 (7) 511121 Mubaheej (7) (BF) (C) B L Moore 4-9-4 ..... F Norton ⊕90
8 (1) 102400 For-So-La (9) (C) Mrs C Jones 3-9-3 ..... D Sweeney 68
9 (3) 405056 Barnsley Dan (9) (CD) J L Harris 3-9-2 ..... R Winston (5) 61
10 (2) 400040 Loch Style (JAM) Miss S Williamson
5-9-2 ..... Jenny Benson (7) 76
11 (10) 003002 Talkabout (7) W Muir 4-9-0 ..... D Teague (5) 76
12 (16) 69700 Le Sam Bam (141) P Cole 6-8-13 ..... Dean McKeown 74
13 (6) 200-00 Polar Perfect (38) Mrs S Lamyman 4-8-13 ..... D Teague (5) 71
14 (13) 26 200 Dancer Avail (220) P Evans 4-8-12 ..... Dane O'Neill 74
15 (4) 200020 Reward (18) (D) I Watson 6-8-12 ..... Kimberley Hart (5) 70
16 (11) 300030 The Bentley Boy (32) (CD) B Woodward
5-8-11 ..... R Lappin —

Betting: 9-4 Mubaheej, 5-1 Theatre Royal, 7-1 Kamaweh, Teyrnsville, Talkabout.

Pesller debut

OLIVIER Peslier, whose major wins on the Flat this year include the Derby on High-Rise and a third straight Arc on Sagamix, has his first ride over hurdles at Auteuil on Sunday.

Shippy Ellis, who looks after the jockey's interests in Britain, said: "It has always been Olivier's ambition to ride over hurdles and he will partner a horse for Daniel Wildenstein this weekend."

Dublin uses his cunning head to take Hoddle's off the block

David Lacey on a bright display that left England's coach upbeat

HOWEVER successful peacetime manoeuvres may be, victory is still not guaranteed once the real shooting starts, but at least they can boost morale and give commanding officers less to worry about. Seen in this context, England's 2-0 victory over the Czech Republic in Wednesday's friendly at Wembley could be said to have ended a disappointing year for Glenn Hoddle on a positive note.

Twelve months ago Hoddle was expressing concern about misplaced euphoria following England's qualification for the 1998 World Cup. At least this is no longer a problem. On Wednesday night Hoddle was grateful for a chance to describe his team's performance in euphoric terms.

"Some of the flowing football we played, some of the technique we showed, the passing and movement, were technically excellent," he enthused. "That's probably the best we've played at Wembley for a long time."

While that was not saying a great deal, given the moribund nature of much of England's football at home since Euro 96, Hoddle was entitled to be satisfied with the way a team largely made up of reserves had responded to his urgent need for a good result and the performance to go with it.

He can now plan for February's friendly against France, the World Cup holders, and the crucial Euro 2000 qualifier against Poland in March in a relatively sanguine frame of mind. Victory over an experienced Czech side that included seven of the players beaten by a German goal in sudden-death over-time at Wembley in the 1996 European Championship final ought to give Hoddle a fourth respectable result from his more strident critics, although one would not bet on it.

Making his mark . . . Dion Dublin's intelligent use of space not pace for England on Wednesday won special praise from Hoddle

Nevertheless a day which had begun with a corny beef from Andy Cole, who was said to be reporting Hoddle to the Football Association for daring to criticise the Manchester United's forward's strike rate, ended amid peaceans of praise for Dion Dublin's intelligent all-round display against the Czechs.

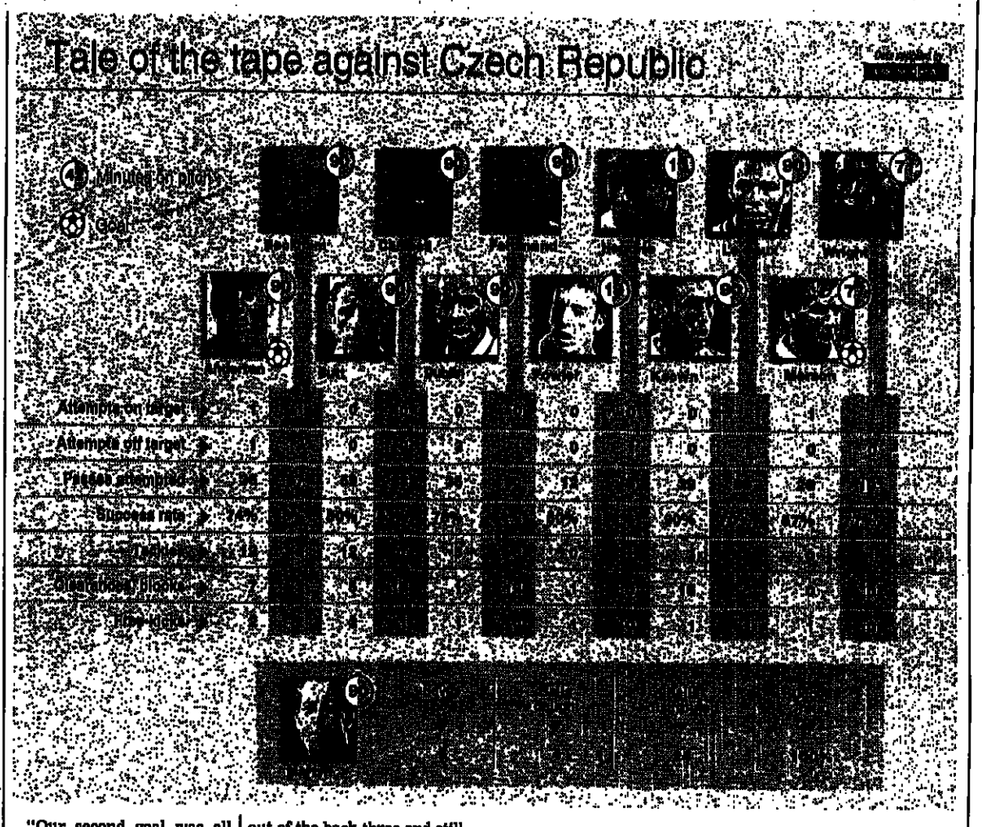
Presumably the FA would treat a complaint from Andy Cole about as seriously as the Office of Fair Trading would react to a complaint from George Cole using his Arthur Daley voice. Happily for Hoddle, Dublin's performance put this nonsense into its proper place while reminding Alan Shearer and Michael Owen that nobody's England future is guaranteed.

Before Wednesday night Shearer and Owen, both of whom missed the Czech game through injury, had started five successive internationals without proving themselves a partnership. Dublin and Ian Wright, on the other hand, were thrown together by circumstance and looked as if they had been partners all season.

The movement off the ball of the 35-year-old Wright has always impressed Hoddle and his crosses helped to set up goals for Darren Anderton and Paul Merson. But it was Dublin's more muscular version of Teddy Sheringham which left the England coach thinking seriously about the contribution the 29-year-old Aston Villa striker might make to the qualifiers against Poland and Sweden at Wembley next year.

"Dion Dublin was impeccable," Hoddle declared. "Anyone who suggested that he wasn't international class should be embarrassed. He proved his intelligence with or without the ball and he organised from the front, which is a very rare talent to have.

"He finds space where other players with a lot more pace might not find it. Like Teddy, his first yard is in his head and he has a slightly bigger frame in holding the ball up.



"Our second goal was all about Dion's awareness of what was going on around him. He held a guy off as he met Wright's cross and got a touch on to Paul Merson when other players would have been trying to head into the net."

Asked whether he envisaged Dublin partnering Shearer or Owen, Hoddle replied enigmatically: "Wait and see."

It is a pity, perhaps, he was unable to play Dublin alongside Shearer this week, which would have given him a clearer idea of the attacking possibilities against Poland.

Defensively he was reminded of Sol Campbell's massive authority, Martin Keown's reliability and Rio Ferdinand's potential as a libero with the ability to move out of the back three and still look comfortable on the ball. But Ferdinand has much to learn and Gareth Southgate will surely be a crucial figure against the Poles.

The way the passing and movement of David Beckham, Nicky Butt, Anderton and Merson responded to the efforts of Dublin and Wright was encouraging but the Czech midfield dominated the early stages and left one wondering what might have happened had this been a competitive match.

The visit of France in February should put this victory into better perspective but Hoddle will know the real truth only when England play the Poles. Wednesday's win may have alleviated his torture by tabloid, but for how long?

Leicester cool on Ward as Coventry cross the border for Jackson

LEICESTER City's manager Martin O'Neill is on the verge of ditching plans to sign Ashley Ward if Barnsley stick to their asking price of £5 million.

O'Neill has already seen one offer of £3.5 million for the striker rejected and he hinted that he may turn his attention elsewhere.

He said: "We are looking at a number of options. There are several other avenues open to us and it may be that we will have to pursue one of those. I had hoped to have something sorted out by the Chelsea game at the weekend but that doesn't look likely."

Scotland's World Cup striker Darren Jackson has joined Coventry from Celtic on a three-month loan, going to the Premiership club as cover after Dion Dublin's sale to Aston Villa.

Coventry's manager Gordon Strachan said: "We shall still be on the look-out for another striker but this gives us a bit of reassurance in case Noel Whelan or Darren Huckerby picks up an injury."

Jackson, 32, who played three years for Newcastle in the Eighties, has spent most of his career with Dundee United and Hibernian. He overcame serious illness to return for Celtic and win a place in France 98.

Philippe Albert, Newcastle's veteran Belgian defender, is likely to leave the club before the end of the season in his desire to play regular first-team football.

Albert, 31, has been told he can leave next summer but his frustration has increased after he failed to win even a substitute's place against Sheffield Wednesday last Saturday.

"I have never been in a situation like this before and it's not promising," he said. "I have no chance of getting back into the team and I don't want to be picking up my money at the end of each month without playing."

Ruud Gullit is prepared to let Albert go even though he has ruled out a move for Barcelona's £2.5 million-rated defender Miguel Angel Nadal. Southampton have been showing interest in Albert but have yet to make a move.

Everton, with little to spend on new players, have shelved their interest in Newcastle's full-back Warren Barton.

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Rugby Union

England set for Italian bruising

Robert Armstrong on the warning that followed the naming of an unchanged side

CLIVE WOODWARD yesterday announced an unchanged England side for the first time in 14 internationals since he took charge at the start of last season.

However, he warned that Sunday's World Cup qualifier against Italy at Huddersfield's McAlpine Stadium would be "physically demanding", especially up front where power and fitness would be at a premium.

England have made one change among the seven replacements, leaving out a back, Phil de Glanville, in favour of a forward, Danny Grewcock, who will provide extra second-row cover along with Tim Rodber.

Otherwise Woodward, who named his team at their Leeds hotel after a two-hour squad session at the university ground, was able to give the nod to the line-up that defeated the Netherlands by a record 110-0 margin last Saturday.

In the past year a succession of injuries to key players has disrupted Woodward's attempts to achieve continuity, though he has occasionally added to the number of changes with his taste for experiments.

The 15 capped players who did not take part in England's summer tour of the southern hemisphere appear to have benefited from their lay-off by regaining 100 per cent fitness. This may have contributed to the clean bill of health after the Netherlands game.

With the exception of the Sale wing David Rees, who has not recovered from a damaged hip, Woodward has everyone at his disposal, a welcome situation in light of the forthcoming Tests against Australia and South Africa at Twickenham.

England will need abundant good fortune to come through the Italy game unscathed if forecasts of an attritional battle prove correct. "I have no doubt that England are in for a very demanding game against a very physical team," said Woodward. "I was glad I saw Italy's recent win over Argentina. It was a meeting of two very tough teams and Italy were certainly impressive. We'll have to go full out against them."

The England coach said he was unperturbed by the possibility of a high penalty count, the Italians having conceded more than 20 penalties and free-kicks during their 67-7 midweek victory over the Netherlands. "I don't envisage any problem with the way the match officials will handle things," he explained. "We'll treat it as we would any international. We know Italy will be up for this game; it will be their first crack at a British side since they were granted Five/Six Nations Championship status."

John Mitchell, England's assistant coach, conceded that Italy's depth of experience among the forwards represented a genuine threat. "You have to give credit to the strides they've made since the last World Cup," he said. "They are direct and effective and they've beaten a number of big sides. You have to be wary of any team that includes players with plenty of experience of Test rugby."

Jon Preston will make his Allied Dunbar Premiership debut for Bath in tomorrow's game against Harlequins at The Stoop. Preston, a prolific goalkicker, will wear the fly-half jersey as Bath shuffle their resources with several players ruled out because of international commitments.

Anthony Sullivan's brief rugby union career has suffered a setback. The Great Britain league international wing could be out for 11 weeks with a back injury sustained while making his Wales A debut against Argentina on Wednesday.

ENGLAND: Perry (Bath); Healey (Leicester), Dawson (Bath), Greenwood (Leicester), Luger (Harlequins); Grayson, Dawson (both Northampton); Leonard (Harlequins), Dookeriil, Garforth, Johnson (capt, all Leicester), Archer (Newcastle), Clarke (Richmond), Back, Corry (both Leicester).

Townsend left out by Scotland

Robert Kitson

GREGOR TOWNSEND has divided opinion throughout his career but Scotland's selectors finally ran out of patience yesterday.

The British Lions fly-half has been dropped from the side to face South Africa at Murrayfield tomorrow in favour of Duncan Hodge, one of five changes to the team beaten by the New Zealand Maoris last weekend.

The New Zealander John Leslie, who has played only one competitive game in Scotland, is one of three new caps, alongside his fellow centre Jamie Mayer and the Northampton flanker Budge Pountney, who both appeared in the non-cap international against the Maoris. Alan Tait is back on the wing in place of Tony Stanger, with Peter Walton filling the back-row vacancy caused by the exclusion of Rob Wainwright.

The moment the coach Jim Telfer bemoaned the lack of a cutting edge behind the scrum last week, Townsend's position was clearly under threat. Scotland have lost 10 of their last 11 internationals.

Hodge, who has never started a Test in the No. 10 jersey, is a more reliable customer who kicks his goals.

Leslie and his brother Martin, among the replacements, are the sons of the former All Black Andy Leslie, eligible by virtue of a grandfather born in Linlithgow.

The Springbok captain Gary Teichmann acknowledged the former as "the most underrated centre in Super 12" and suggested the Otago Highlander would make a big difference to the Scots' midfield.

Tait, meanwhile, finds himself back on the wing where he played a scoring role in the Lions' victory last year. Another Lion, Doddie Weir, also returns, with Stuart Grimes dropping to the bench.

SCOTLAND: Lee (London Scottish); Tait, Mayer (both Edinburgh Reivers), J Leslie (Glasgow Caledonians), D Murray; Hodge, Redpath (capt, all Edinburgh Reivers); Smith, Bulloch (both Glasgow Caledonians), Burnell (London Scottish), P Murray (Bedford), Weir, Walton (both Newcastle), Pountney (Northampton), Peters (Bath).

Tierney avoids drugs sanctions

TOM TIERNEY, the Garryowen, Munster and Ireland Under-21 scrum-half, was today reprimanded for unintentionally taking a banned substance last season.

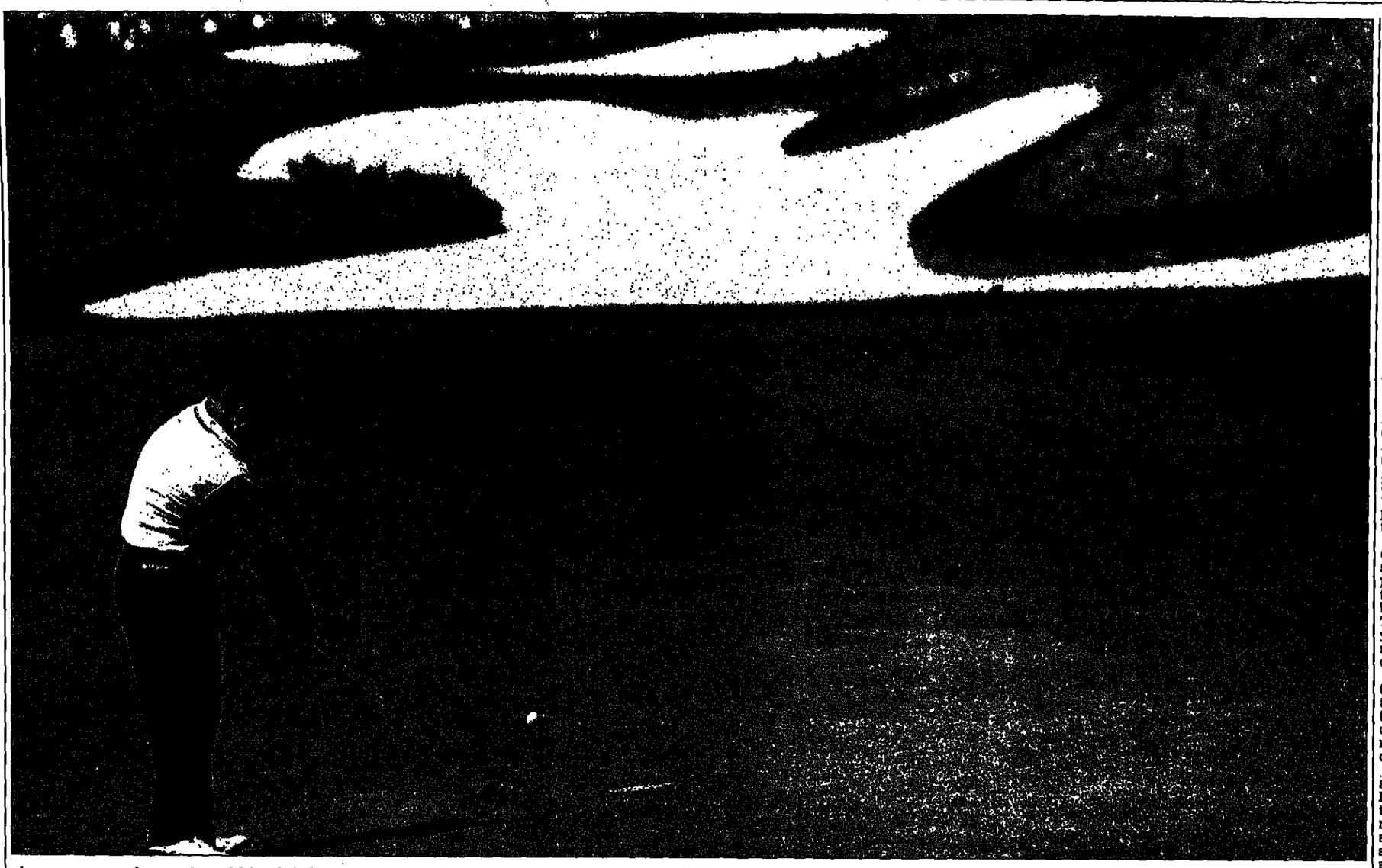
The prohibited substance involved was ephedrine, a mild stimulant contained in products for the treatment of coughs and colds.

Tierney's case was investigated by the Independent Drugs Tribunal made up of the former Irish Chief Justice Tom Finlay, who was the panel chairman, as well as Dr Tony O'Neill and Dr Brendan Buckley.

Tierney's case was referred to the Irish Rugby Football Union following the France v Ireland Under-21 match at La Roche Sur Yon in March.

A statement by the tribunal said: "The consultant verified that the player had taken a prescribed substance for genuine therapeutic reasons, which the player had not declared, and as a consequence a positive finding had arisen.

"In the circumstances we are of the view that there is no issue for the tribunal to try," the statement concluded.



Japan set daunting World Cup pace as Faldo sees breeze take the wind out of England's sails

A SOLID round by Ian Woosnam, pictured above at the sixth hole of Auckland's Gulf Harbour Country Club, could not prevent Wales ending the opening day of the World Cup eight shots adrift of the leaders Japan.

Woosnam hit a two-under-par 70 and his partner Phillip Price a 72 but Wales already have a great deal of ground to make up in the $1.5 million (£900,000) tournament.

England fared little better. Despite Nick Faldo's four-under-par 68 they finished seven shots off the pace in fifth place. Faldo's team-mate David Carter struggled in the breezy conditions and finished with a 73. "David played well and he was having trouble, like me, reading the breaks on the greens," Faldo said.

Yasuharu Imano suffered no such problems, setting a course record 64 to help Japan to 10 under par and a three-shot lead over South Africa, with Australia and Sweden a further shot adrift.

Imano leads Italy's Costantino Rocca by a stroke in the individual section. The defending individual champion Colin Montgomerie managed only a 72 as Scotland, the pre-tournament favourites, ended the day eight shots off the lead. The defending champions Ireland were joint fifth after a 67 by Paul McGinley.

● Tiger Woods finished strongly to beat Vijay Singh and win the Grand Slam in Hawaii. Lee Janzen beat Mark O'Meara into third place.

Pak recovers for title finale

Elspeth Burnside in Las Vegas

THIS gambling city and normality are not natural soulmates. But for Se Ri Pak it was a relief to be back where she feels most at home — on a golf course — for yesterday's first round of the PageNet Tour Championship at the Desert Island Resort.

It is the first event for the sensational 21-year-old since she spent four days in hospital due to stress after a whirlwind welcome home to South Korea two weeks ago.

Television crews even made an appearance in her hospital room. As she prepared to battle it out with Sweden's World No. 1 Annika Sorenstam for the Player of the Year honours in this final event of the season, she said: "It was the first time that I have been in hospital and it was too much."

Pak, who has won four times this year, needs to win and have Sorenstam finish third or lower to clinch the honour in her rookie year.

While Pak has been nursing herself back to health, Britain's Laura Davies has been whiling away the evenings doing what she loves, playing the casinos.

Needing to win the event to retain a record of winning at least once in America every season since 1992, the 35-year-old, who won the Player of the Year title in 1996, made a fast start with a birdie from five feet at the 3rd.

Trailing Rose shows late sign of turning corner in card chase

A BIRDIE three from 30 feet on the 18th green at Sotogrande yesterday had Justin Rose anticipating a fruitful weekend in the PGA European Tour Qualifying School, *writes Michael Britten in San Roque.*

It gave him a second-round 73 for a seven-over-par total of 151 and, although he trails the leaders Ross Drummond and Henrik Nystrom of Sweden by 14 strokes, the 18-year-old Open Championship hero is beginning to look more like a graduate than a reject.

There is still a thorny road ahead for Rose, however, because after 36 holes he stands 131st out of 180. Only the top 35 after six rounds will get cards for the 1999 European circuit. Only the top 75 survive the cut after four.

Tennis

Sick Seles just too slick for Kournikova

David Mercer in New York

LINDSAY DAVENPORT, the world's best woman player, and Anna Kournikova, the world's most photographed, experienced contrasting fortunes as the first round of the Chase Championships was completed here in Madison Square Garden.

While Davenport recovered from a set down to beat Sandrine Testud 4-6, 7-6, 6-0, Kournikova suffered a third successive first-round defeat, going down 6-4, 6-3 to Monica Seles. To make matters worse, she was facing an opponent suffering the effects of food poisoning.

Given her condition, Seles could not have made a better start, conceding only one point in the first three games, though Kournikova then began to compete quite well. The problem was that the 17-year-old Russian faced a considerable handicap — her own serve.

She double-faulted 17 times to take her tally for her last three matches to 56. At 3-4 in the second set there were four doubles, including three in a row, to present Seles with the crucial break of serve.

When this wretched run started in Zurich last month, Kournikova had been reduced to tears. Now she seems reconciled to the problem. "I am a little bit tired, so my serve is not there right now," she said. "I just lost my rhythm a little bit. I don't really think that it is that serious."

At least Kournikova now has six weeks before the start of the 1999 season to try to solve the problem. She needs to if she is not to become known just for her image rather than her tennis.

That is unlikely to happen to Davenport who, despite knowing that she is bound to finish the year ranked No. 1, said: "I'd really like to cap off a great year by winning this tournament." That seemed unlikely because she surrendered leads of 4-2 in the first set and 2-0 in the second. The tie-break was decisive, for having won it 7-4, Davenport produced the tennis that has brought her six tournament titles this year.

In the quarter-finals Davenport plays Nathalie Tauziat, Seles faces Steffi Graf, Irina Spirlea takes on Dominique van Roost, and Martina Hingis meets Mary Pierce.

David Lloyd, the British Davis Cup captain, has attacked Pete Sampras over his reluctance to play in the Davis Cup against Britain next April. He feels the Wimbledon champion should be banned from representing the United States if he decides not to play in the world group tie at Birmingham.

Sampras has said that the competition is not one of the most important items on his 1999 schedule. Lloyd said: "I think that if Sampras refuses to play, he should never play for his country again.

"The Davis Cup is the greatest team event in tennis, next year is the centenary of the competition and I cannot understand any sportsman who does not want to play for his country, whatever the sport," he added.

The American captain, Tom Gullikson, said he was going to do all he could to persuade both Sampras and Andre Agassi to take part. American team officials came under fire when a third-string US team lost 4-1 to Italy in the semi-finals in September.

Tim Henman yesterday insisted Britain can win the Davis Cup for the first time in 64 years. The British No. 1 said: "We had a great win against India in Nottingham and the stage is now set for us to go all the way in 1999."

● Mark Hilton, the 17-year-old prospect from Chester, showed outstanding temperament to win a tie-break from 0-5 to reach the quarter-finals of the British National Championships at Telford yesterday. He beat Colin Bennett 7-5, 7-6.

Westwood into his stride

David Davies in Miyazaki sees the Briton happy with his start

TWELVE down, only 68 to go and Lee Westwood made a good start yesterday towards his stated ambition of winning 100 tournaments before he is done. The Worksop man birdied two of the last three holes in the Dunlop Phoenix event in Miyazaki, in southern Japan, for a three-under-par 68, putting him only two behind the leader Ricky Kawagishi.

Westwood was delighted with his score, feeling it was the best he could possibly have done given some "iffy" striking of the ball, and was equally pleased to be as close to the lead as he was.

Westwood is level with, among others, Ernie Els, with Darren Clarke and Jose Maria Olazabal two behind on 70. The defending champion Tom Watson is unlikely to enjoy a repeat. The American has played only two tournaments in the past four months and his four-over-par 75 leaves him 67th in a field of 84 and struggling to make the cut.

Watson is in a syndicate that is buying his home-town baseball team, the Kansas City Royals, $76 million (£46 million), a price he feels is "a bargain". Watson said: "The team would be worth $130 million on the open market but the previous owners stipulated that the team must remain in Kansas and that the bidders must be predominantly Kansan." Watson's presence, as a famous Kansas sporting son, helped to tip the balance.

Kawagishi won £435,000 in 1999, his first year as a professional, and was third on the Money List. That earned him invitations to events in the United States and it was there that the rot set in. Kawagishi came back convinced he needed extra length, tampered with a swing that was working perfectly well and set off a stump.

When he earned only £110,000 last year, impoverishment by Japanese standards, he took a familiar route to salvation in these parts — he joined up with the Jumbo Ozaki "family". This is a group of golfers who get together every new year and spend two to three weeks at Jumbo's house, going through physical fitness routines as well as learning course management and practising and playing.

The results are just starting to show. Last week he was ninth, the previous week seventh and yesterday a stunning eagle at the long 7th showed how his confidence is increasing.

Westwood needed his good finish to be in contention and, after a massive drive at the 16th, hit an indifferent wedge to 12 feet and holed a curly putt. The birdie at the long 18th was a wise one, though, laying up short of the green and pitching to three feet. Clarke, by contrast, blasted a three-wood deep into the woods from whence six was the best he could do.

The normally easy-going Els was almost Faldo-esque in his fidgeting and he revealed that he is working towards a more upright plane to his backswing.

Snooker

Hendry suffers whitewash

STEPHEN HENDRY, the six-times world champion, plunged to a 9—0 defeat at the hands of the world No. 73 Marcus Campbell in the first round of the UK Championship at Bournemouth last night, *writes Clive Everton.*

Campbell had beaten Hendry in the Scottish Open last February but even when he won the first two frames on Wednesday on the blue plus a scrappy third, there was no sense of an impending avalanche.

But in the remaining five frames of that evening, Hendry only picked up 10 points as his fellow Scot, whose highest breaks were 61, 81 and 63, took an 8-0 overnight lead.

A black-ball win in the only frame needed last night completed the whitewash, the first that Hendry has ever suffered in a best of 17-frames match.

Afterwards Hendry admitted: "I've got to go back to the drawing board and re-model my game. My confidence has drained and drained over the last couple of years and it was inevitable that something like this would happen.

"Situations like this call for drastic measures. I'll have to think carefully what I'm going to do next." Campbell was simply "dumbfounded".

Method and madness

The Wu-Tang Clan took hip-hop by storm, but when are they going to stop cashing in on the same old sound? **David Bennun** disses a couple of lazy rappers



Keeping it real similar . . . RZA (above) and Method Man (below)

RZA
RZA As Bobby Digital (Gee Street)
★★

Method Man
Tical 2000: Judgement Day (Def Jam)
★★★

POP ODDS OF THE WEEK

Seems like every few weeks another album turns up with the Wu-Tang imprint on it. Hip-hop's foremost clan is expanding, and it isn't doing their hallmark any favours. In the same way that Steven Spielberg's name is used to flog any second-rate TV project he okayed in his coffee break, so the Wu-Tang appear to have lobbed their emblem onto records cobbled together by their mates, protégés, drinking buddies, valet parking service and the bloke who designs their nail varnish.

It's not as if there weren't enough of them to start with, but at least that original core was rich in talent and ingenuity. There was Raekwon, also known as The Chef for reasons best understood by himself, whose album Only Built 4 Cuban Linx was something of an event three years back. There was GZA, whose alias was Genius, and who nearly justified it with a blinding record called Liquid Swords. There was Ol' Dirty Bastard, who deserves immortality for his name alone, and for the fact that he called his son Li'l Dirty Bastard. Although not everyone feels that way; ODB was shot during a break-in at his home not long ago and came with inches of being Dead Dirty Bastard. Poor Dirty Bastard. There was the quasi-Wu offshoot Gravediggaz, who invented horrorcore rap and released the brilliant and very funny Niggamortis LP.

There was Method Man, he of the metal fangs, whose I'll Be There For You has to be one of the best singles of the decade. And above all — and behind them all — there was RZA, the creator of the Wu-Tang sound. RZA ranks with The Bomb Squad, Dr Dre, Premier and Mugga as one of the producers who took hip-hop by storm. (It would be nice to think of him as the most influential rap producer of our time, but that title probably belongs to the wretched Puff Daddy, the Celine Dion of hip-hop.)

It was RZA who perfected that raw, minimal, hypnotic backbeat, then threw in the enticing shards of melody which made the first half of the last Wu-Tang opus so compulsive (the second half was a mess, a cacophony of grunts, belligerence and charmless braggadocio). RZA's own album shows his strengths and flaws in equal measure. His major strength: he is a marvellous producer, even when re-working ideas you've already heard. His main flaw: he is, on this showing at least, an average rapper.

RZA As Bobby Digital looks great, with its Kung-Fu/Blaxploitation/hi-tech cover by the excellent Bill Sienkewicz, and the backing tracks are pretty much state-of-the-art. But the hectoring vocals kill off the magic. An instrumental version will be out early next year, and will probably be fantastic.



Method Man, on the other hand, is a top-class rapper, the best exponent of surly menace since Ice Cube. Tical 2000 resembles a modern Hollywood action blockbuster: violent, aggressive, sombre, relentless, and spectacular. While Puff Daddy, appropriately enough, left his fingerprints on the hideous tank that was Godzilla, Method Man's album is closer to Armageddon. It's big, it's long, it's loud, it's unfailingly over-the-top, it even has a few good gags in it — and for the most part, it works.

This is the best Wu-Tang creation in a while, especially the bits with RZA at the controls in the studio: Perfect World, Suspect Chin Music. Other guests include kindred spirits Mobb Deep; and Left Eye of TLC, demonstrating with Cradle Rock the outlook on life which led her to torch her boyfriend's mansion during a lovers' tiff: "When the earth quakes and the sky starts to fall / Down will come MCs, fake shit and all."

Trouble is, the Wu-Tang — and their many disciples — seem so obsessed with avoiding fake shit that they're not allowing themselves to move on as fast as they could. "Keeping it real" means keeping it in a fixed and established style, narrowing the parameters of hip-hop. This is a good record; that doesn't mean everyone involved couldn't be making better ones.

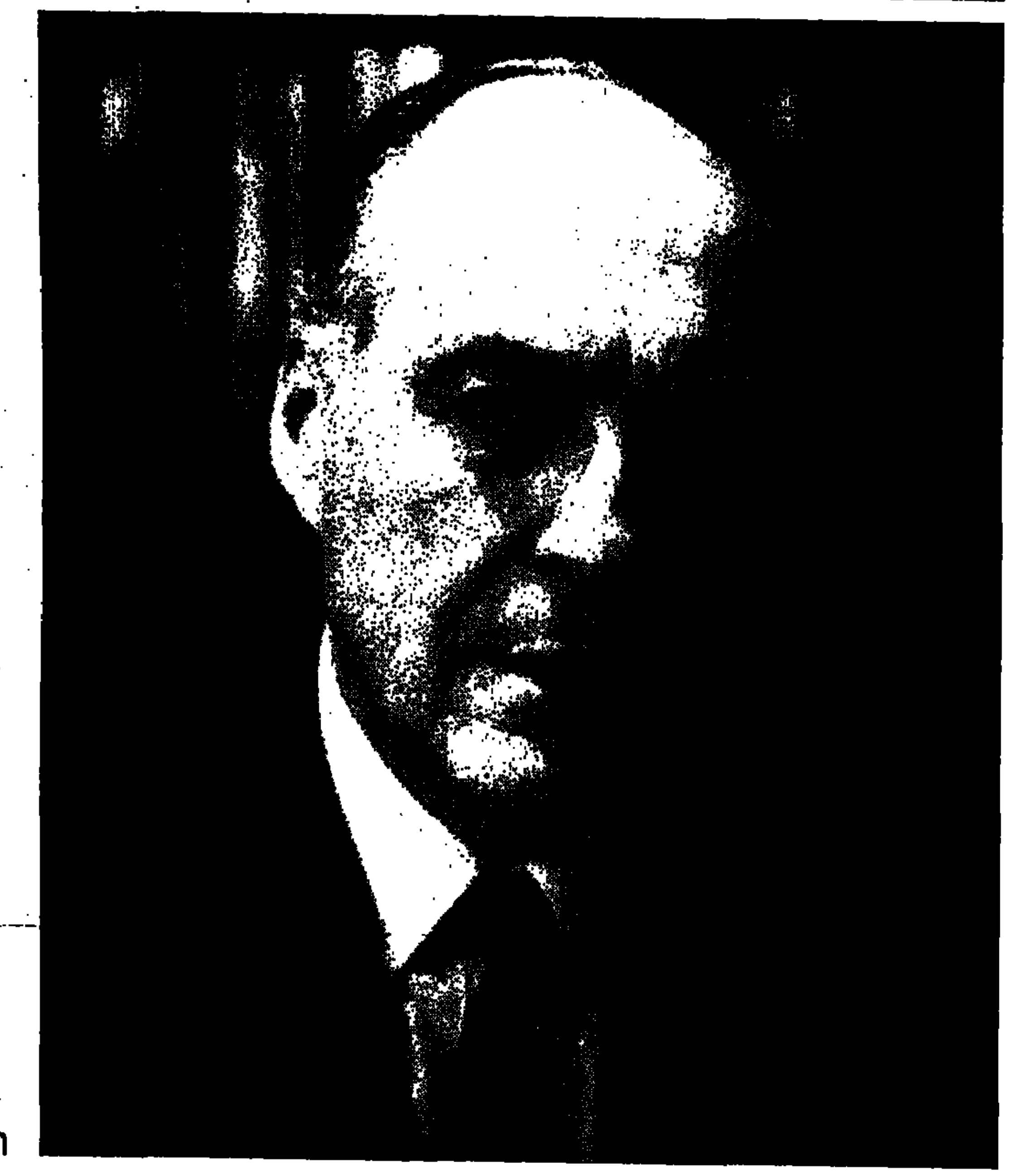
To listen to these albums, call 0891 626828 and use code 0124 for RZA, or 1025 for Method Man.

The Guardian EUROPE
Friday Review
Friday November 20 1998



Inside Britain's most secretive institution

'Being a censor drives you mad. It's not the material that corrupts. It's the job'



Arbitrary decisions, an autocratic regime and no accountability…
Ros Hodgkiss reveals why she quit the British Board Of Film Classification

The day I knew I couldn't hack it as a censor was the day before the British Board of Film Classification went on the road. Andreas Whittam Smith, the new president, had ordered a "censorship roadshow" and a series of public meetings. As James Ferman, the chief censor, rehearsed his presentation, I realised in a blinding flash I couldn't bear to support what the board stood for. I resigned the next day.

At first I thought it was the presentation that repelled me. Pompous, paternalistic and riddled with assumptions, it seemed so emotionally manipulative. Clips of cuts we'd made in films showing violence and sexual violence were strung together, out of context to a thumping rock accompaniment. It started with cuts showing animal cruelty. What better way to woo the support of the British public than enrol their sympathy for animals?

But then I realised it was not the presentation. It was the job. I came to censorship (or examining, as we called it) from education — I taught drama and English at a sixth-form college in Brighton. I applied out of curiosity after seeing an ad. I needed a job in London, the money was reasonable, I loved film and was interested in the debate on the effects of the media. I considered myself broad-minded, liberal even. I had few reservations about film. As a teacher, I credited young people with intelligence and discrimination, but I could see the point of classification, if only as a guide to help individual choice.

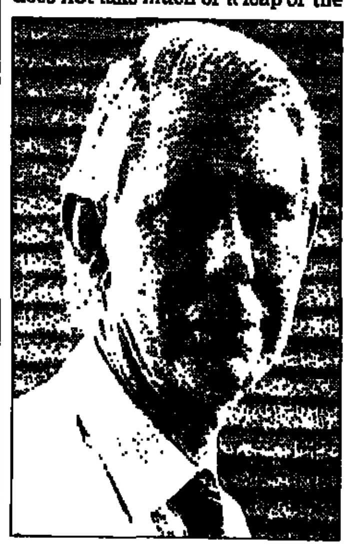
My friends were amazed. One colleague couldn't imagine me censoring anything. Others were intrigued. Later I could dominate a dinner party with snippets of confidential information, or stories about porn. But a part of me was embarrassed to admit I was a censor. It was at odds with my values, though my values and responses would shift like quicksand while I was working at the board.

I joined the BBFC in a tranche of appointments after it did not renew the contracts of its feisty part-time examiners in 1994. It needed "new blood" and a new approach and wanted a full-time board. In the moral panic following the Jamie Bulger case, which was linked erroneously to the "Chucky" film Child's Play 3, there was new legislation, The Amendment to the Video Recordings Act, contained in the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (1994). This required the BBFC to consider the "likely harm" of a video to its potential audience (or to society through the behaviour of its audience) in the treatment of drugs, horror, sex, violence and crime. I started work in September 1995, in the second intake of full-time examiners. Three years later I resigned.

We full-timers had been recruited from the same fields as the previous generation — social work, psychology, journalism and education, but there was a crucial difference. We were generally younger, less established in our careers, and financially dependent on the salary.

Was full-time examining a means of reducing dissent? Battles between James Ferman, the director and chief censor, and his part-timers were notorious, though I was blissfully unaware of his reputation as something of an autocrat when I took the job. Would full-time posts make any difference? Apparently not.

When I left, the atmosphere was sombre. Ferman's authority was sapped by the appointment of Andreas Whittam Smith as president. Ferman's reputation had suffered after his fruitless attempts to liberalise porn available in sex shops and he announced his retirement. After so many ostrich years, He now appears to crave publicity — there's been a Panorama and dispirited pronouncements that he should have cut Pulp Fiction. It does not take much of a leap of the imagination to see him sniping from the sidelines in future, à la Mrs Thatcher.



Ferman (above) talked of the 'Peter Meter', a measure of the potential for a rape scene to arouse, while Whittam Smith (left) did not know what a long shot was

Life at the BBFC under Ferman was always contentious and theatrical. Controversy set the board backtracking on policy, or retreating into silence. A handful of letters constituted a public outcry.

I'll never forget the day of the Dunblane massacre. Most examiners had children and reacted with horror to the slaughter. Although there was no connection between Thomas Hamilton and film, Natural Born Killers was due for release on video that month. As society wrung its hands the spotlight fell on video violence. Films like Michael Mann's Heat were criticised by Andrew Neil in the Sunday Times. Editorials sprang up everywhere condemning violent entertainment culture. Whenever these stories broke, whatever the facts, there was a reining in. Decisions undoubtedly became more conservative. In such a climate it is difficult to keep your cool and remain objective.

But all this was nothing compared to the Daily Mail's campaign to ban David Cronenberg's Crash. Luckily I was on holiday when reporters doorstepped my colleagues, prying into their personal lives. The Crash controversy never seemed to end. Ferman, with characteristic caution, would not issue a certificate before he had covered every angle. The Daily Mail scored a coup when Paul Britton, the forensic psychologist consulted by the board, condemned the decision to give it an 18. Examiners had no qualms about the decision; it was the hesitation and mess in the way it was handled that sunk us.

We viewed five hours a day, three-and-a-half days a week. It was a mixed bag — TV comedy and dramas, videos of Hollywood films, straight-to-video action thrillers, children's material, or foreign language stuff like Hindi films. And porn. Lots of it. I might have a day of porn once a fortnight.

People assume the job is glamorous. I found it dull and isolating. Imagine sitting through Chinese soaps — three hours of Neighbours in Cantonese. Or Barney, the purple dinosaur; soporific, politically correct and gushy. I would rather let my three-year-old watch Reservoir Dogs. But then the job gets you like that. You either become delinquent or Outraged of Eastbourne.

You get a reputation, after a while — good on violence, bad on lan-



'People want to be wowed' . . . violinist Tasmin Little

have to be tremendously well prepared, because they need to be tossed off as if you haven't a care in the world, when in reality what you're playing is fearsomely difficult. People want to be wowed."

But the current interest in virtuoso repertoire is not merely a nostalgic revival: the tradition is now gaining fresh life. Stephen Hough has made a number of his own transcriptions: "The important thing is to find a good piece to work with. I've recently finished a transcription of the Carousel waltz by Richard Rogers — it is a virtuoso showpiece, but hopefully it's not too far away from the music's original spirit. Those Rogers waltzes are marvellous — I want to try to get that sweep that is so characteristic of them." Hamelin has also tackled transcriptions of his own — including Flight Of The Bumble Bee and Rossini's La Danza. Once, in response to a dare, he even combined the three Chopin Etudes in A minor into one piece.

He has produced an extraordinary cadenza for the Liszt Second Hungarian Rhapsody, and most recently he has recorded a CD featuring works by nine composer-pianists of the last 150 years, including his own contributions. And Steven Isserlis occasionally performs some very unusual transcriptions — Beatles songs. "They're just beautiful pieces of music. I'm not at all a 'crossover' musician, but they're like extra cello pieces that I love."

What, in the end, is the special appeal of virtuoso showpieces? Stephen Hough sums it up. "It's like dessert — if you have too many of them it can start to be rather sickening. They're not something to form your main diet. But if you go to dinner somewhere and you realise there's not actually going to be a dessert — well, my spirits fall a little, I've got a sweet tooth. And it's rather similar in a concert. It's so nice in a restaurant when, with the coffee, a couple of little chocolate truffles arrive, glistening with sugar. To me, that restaurant goes up a few stars."

Marc Andre Hamelin: The Composer Pianists, a collection of virtuoso works by pianists, is out now on Hyperion. Stephen Isserlis: Cello World is out now (BMG).

THIS WEEK'S CLASSICAL CD RELEASES

Bartók: Concerto for Orchestra; Three Village Scenes; Kossuth
Budapest Festival Orchestra/Fischer (Philips 456 575-2)
★★★★★ £14.99

As its Bartók series for Philips has demonstrated, the Budapest Festival Orchestra under Ivan Fischer has become one of the finest bands in Europe. The playing here is dazzlingly precise; the Concerto for Orchestra is by no means the best of Bartók's orchestral works (even if the most popular), and it's a considerable achievement to make it so fresh and invigorating, every movement here crackling with energy and dramatic tension. For once in the Concerto, the music ceases to be predictable, and coupling it with the symphonic poem Kossuth shows the distance Bartók's language travelled in his career; Fischer makes that early score's mixture of Strauss and Brahms seem perfectly cogent and sustained.

Verdi: Falstaff
Trimarchi/Servile/Faulkner/Di Micco/Hungarian State Opera/Humburg (Naxos 8.660050-51) (2 CDs)
★★★ £9.99

This is budget-price opera at its most convincing. You can pay more, probably three times as much, and get top-flight international voices in Falstaff (though the most serviceable version, Solti's, is now 35-years-old), but this performance under Will Humburg conveys a very great deal of the joyous energy and needle-fine wit of Verdi's last opera, despite the occasional shortcomings. The sound comes and goes a bit, and there's some unevenness of tone from one or two of the cast, in which none of them suggests a great voice waiting to be discovered, although Domenico Trimarchi's Falstaff conveys real presence and intelligence. For anyone wanting to discover one of the supreme masterpieces in the entire history of opera it can be thoroughly recommended.

Charlotte Church: Voice of An Angel
Church/Welsh National Opera Chorus & Orchestra/Edwards (Sony Classical)
★ £14.99

Top of the "classical" charts it may be, but the debut album by this 12-year-old singing sensation is a load of sentimental, exploitative tosh. Charlotte Church is a decently schooled young singer — though most of the great cathedral choirs could come up with a boy soprano of the same age who could display more musicality and polish. Why she should have been singled out for such star treatment remains a total mystery. The selection of numbers, including emetic versions of The Lord's Prayer, Jerusalem, Psalm 23 and Danny Boy, is mind-numbingly bland, the performances deadeningly unvaried. Whatever Church's future — and girls' voices in their teens are no more predictable than those of boys — this disc does her no favours.

Reviews by Andrew Clements. To order any priced CD (p&p 99p), call the Guardian CultureShop on 0500 600102.

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Let the sparks fly

The popular virtuoso showpiece at the end of a classical recital was a dying tradition — until four young musicians took up the challenge, rediscovering old gems and making new transcriptions for their instruments. Jessica Duchen talks to them about making concerts fun

Where have all the fireworks gone? Concert halls once resounded to the strains of Romantic showpieces: witty, charming and often phenomenally difficult to play, these were usually short works that showed off the artist's technical ability.

The trend had started with Paganini around the 1830s; the young Franz Liszt heard him and immediately set out to emulate his success on the piano. Liszt's compositional output included some of the most complex and beautiful piano music ever written, but it also boasted original "showpieces" and huge numbers of transcriptions and fantasias based on existing music. He could take a Schubert song and transform it into a glittering piano solo, or weave themes from an opera by Mozart or Bellini into a stunning fantasia or "reminiscence". These pieces helped to popularise the original works and were themselves unashamedly populist — accessible, immediate, impressive and often downright fun.

Such works graced instrumental concert programmes — often in the second half, or as encores — for decades. It was only after the second world war that they began to die away. By the seventies it had become a rarity to hear any Liszt fantasia in a piano recital. Critics tut-tutted over transcriptions. Virtuosity itself was often frowned upon. What happened?

Four leading musicians, all of whom are now playing their part in a rapidly burgeoning revival of the 19th-century virtuoso tradition, have different opinions. Cellist Steven Isserlis offers a cryptic view: "Everybody was so busy rediscovering third-rate Baroque music that they forgot about second-rate 19th-century music." Canadian pianist Marc-André Hamelin thinks that the tendency coincided with a time when "musicology became much more of an exact science. I think musicians and musicologists thumbed their noses at transcriptions because many — Liszt's operatic fantasies, for example — far from respected the letter of the score."

The popular young British violinist Tasmin Little, whose recordings include a disc entitled The Virtuoso Violin, mentions the difficulties facing musicians trying to build careers: "With the rise of the pop culture, 'entertainment' began to be something of a dirty word in the classical world."

Pianist Stephen Hough, who recently won the Gramophone instrumental award, places the swings of fashion in a wider context: "I think it was a reaction to the whole change in the world after the two world wars. For many people, the old world which had created these wars was the same as the Romantic, imperialistic, Victorian era: there was a feeling in society in general that there should be a fresh start. In the late 1950s, you see very straight lines in the buildings, poetry, paintings, fashion — everything was getting back to the minimal. And it was a pity that it took along with it so many of the cultural elements that were part of that world."

The tide, though, has been turning. Hamelin and Hough both music the same attention to detail that I apply to Mozart."


Bowing to the Beatles . . . cellist Steven Isserlis

Encore une fois!

Piano: Marc-André Hamelin (Hyperion) — Hamelin's own transcriptions of Liszt's Don Giovanni Fantasy, Bellini's Norma Fantasy, Schubert's Soirée de Vienne No 6, Rossini's Tancredi Fantasy, Weber's Konzertstück Op 79, Saint-Saëns's Danse Macabre, Godowsky's Passacaglia (Handel), Alkan's Concerto for Solo Piano (Op 39 Nos 8-10), Busoni's Fantasia Contrappuntistica, Ravel's Gaspard de la Nuit, Stravinsky's Petrushka, Arcadi Volodos's Carmen Fantasy.

Cello: Steven Isserlis's choice — **David Popper** (Czech, 1843-1913): Requiem, Op 66, Elfentanz (Dance of the Elves), Op 39, Spinnlied (Spinning Song), Op 64 No 2, Im Walde (In the Forest), Op 50, Tarantella, Op 33, Hungarian Rhapsody, Op 68, Serenade, Op 54 No 3, Gavotte, Op 23 No 3, Papillon (Butterfly), Op 3, Polonaise de Concert, Op 14, Mazurka, Op 11, Nocturne, Op 11 No 2, Romance, Op 11 No 1, Concert Etudes Op 76 Nos 1-3, Concert Studies Op 24. The recordings by Leonhard Cedenwall, Vladimir Horowitz, Arnaud Vaneslow.

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Violin: Tasmin Little's choice — **Fritz Kreisler** (Austrian, 1875-1962): Liebesleid, Liebesfreud, Schön Rosmarin, Tambourin Chinois (all for violin and piano). Any of his own recordings. Works by **Nicolo Paganini, Pablo de Sarasate, Henryk Wieniawski**.

music the same attention to detail that I apply to Mozart."

The longer recording time available on CDs, the search for interesting repertoire to invigorate sluggish record and ticket sales, and the sheer wealth of music available — all these have contributed to the virtuoso revival. Liszt and Moszkowski are just two of the best for pianists; for violinists, Fritz Kreisler is as much an idol as Paganini; among cellists, David Popper prevails.

Most importantly, their works not only call for virtuoso ability but also possess inherent musical worth. Isserlis: "For me a piece mustn't just be impressive — it must be either very beautiful or very funny or both. Popper had a wonderful sense of humour, an incredible charm and wit. In his old age he complained: 'People play my music as if they don't like it.' If you approach it just as a set of exercises, then I don't see the point of playing it."

Hough cites Moritz Moszkowski as a favourite: "There's never a piece of Moszkowski that isn't beautifully shaped, and it lies wonderfully under the hands." Little loves the same qualities in Kreisler: "His music has such charm and elegance — and wit as well." Hamelin points to Liszt's Fantasias on Mozart's Don Giovanni and Bellini's Norma as the peaks of their genre.

Little describes the effect of showpieces on the audience: "Because you're playing lots of different pieces, it makes the atmosphere much more informal. And because the tone of the pieces is lighter, people have a smile on their faces. These short pieces would be hardly worth the time of day) manages to resuscitate them, Daniels's two recent discs are of a different order altogether. The selection of Scarlatti's cantatas, the second in a series conducted by Nicholas McGegan, is fine enough — stylish, vigorous, engaging — but his collection of Handel arias is utterly outstanding. The music itself helps a lot, of course, but Daniels's ability to concentrate the dramatic essence of each is spine-tingling. Whether in the languorous lines of "Ombra mi fu" from Serse, or the infinitely sad outpourings of Ariodante's "Scherza infida", he colours every word, makes the phrasing effortless, creates a whole emotional world. This is great singing by the standards of any age.

PHOTO: BEN CHRISTOPHERPAL


Electrifying . . . David Daniels

Up in the aria

Andrew Clements hails two young tenors taking early music to new heights

Cantatas by Schütz, Buxtehude, Rovetta, Tunder, J C Bach and Erlebach
Scholl/Concerto di Viole/Basel Consort (Harmonia Mundi HMC 901651)
★★★★ £14.49

Scarlatti: Cantatas Vol 2
Daniels/Arcadian Academy/McGegan (Conifer 75605 51319 2)
★★★★★ £14.49

Handel: Arias
Daniels/Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment/Norrington (Virgin Veritas VC 545328 2)
★★★★★ £14.99

CLASSICAL CDS OF THE WEEK Forget about the three tenors; the voice of the 1990s is the countertenor. David Daniels and Andreas Scholl are the two finest around at the moment but could hardly be more different. Though his recitals can be electrifying, the American Daniels is predominantly an opera performer — a commanding dramatic presence and a superbly musical interpreter. The German Scholl has largely confined himself to the concert platform so far, though he made his stage debut at Glyndebourne this summer. Technically, there is little to chose between them, and their sense of style is immaculate, but vocally, Daniels is the more exciting singer. Where Scholl is soft-grained yet suavely even through all the registers, Daniels has the richer tone, capable of a far wider range of expression and colour.

If Scholl's elegant treatment of a whole sequence of German baroque cantatas (unremarkable, *Kapellmeister* stuff that in any less aristocratic performances

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Ferman (left) wanted to cut the 'forcible exposure of breasts' from a scene in Strange Days (above, left), in which a young woman is murdered. In Eraser (above right), he changed the ending to make it 'suitable for teenagers', and claimed he'd made it a better movie

guage, wobbly on sex. Some examiners were considered "safer" than others. One colleague, who left after two months, found herself holed up for her last weeks with kiddies' cartoons. Another had a spate of Whoopi Goldberg movies. My worst week had Teletubbies as the intellectual highlight.

The viewing day started at 10am. We worked in pairs, usually starting with porn. I'm not sure why it wasn't a formally agreed practice, rather an unspoken understanding. Porn often required cuts — a time-consuming task in a tightly scheduled day. We needed to be brisk and businesslike to get over the embarrassment of watching sex with strangers. If we got through this, there'd be better to come.

I am not a natural porn user. So there I was, having barely digested breakfast, sitting in a small, dim room staring at intimate body parts with someone I wouldn't normally invite to dinner. (Don't get me wrong, I liked all my colleagues, but there are limits.)

You have to swiftly establish a front of objectivity. Personal feelings, be they arousal or disgust, simply shouldn't enter into it. This is a paradox, of course, since such feelings are precisely those on which notions of taste and decency, two cornerstones of classification, are based.

My own relationship with porn shifted from week to week, dependent on mood, and personal circumstances. At first it felt odd. The material seemed bizarre. Later, in turn, I was bored, irritated, occasionally depressed, more by the routine predictability than anything else. Often I found it funny. Some images would follow you home, resurfacing at inconvenient moments.

We distanced ourselves with ridiculous language. Erections were described in terms of "the angle of the dangle". "De-minimus" was a fleeting glimpse of something normally banned. "Natural Configuration" meant you saw bits you shouldn't when the model bent over.

The standards were arbitrary, bizarre, I couldn't fathom their rationale, but I applied them anyway, as jobsworth as the next examiner. "Length and Strength" meant sex scenes over four to five minutes would be cut. Long-shot buttock thrusting caused particular problems. The oddest was the ruling that outer but not inner labia could be shown. This was based on some dubious parallel between male and female sexual organs. Dicks on the dangle were all right, but inner labia were equated with an erect penis. I thought the engorged clitoris a more likely comparison, but what's anatomical accuracy when taste and decency are involved?

We would play games in the viewing room to alleviate the boredom. Spot the villain (no challenge), predict the dénouement (marks for accuracy, extra points for getting the timing right), complete the dialogue line. We had the nuances of genre nailed.



'I would rather my child watched Reservoir Dogs than Barney, the purple dinosaur'

eral anecdotes to prove it. He cut a scene in another actioner, Lethal Weapon 3. Mel Gibson brutally disposes of the villains who killed his girlfriend, by slamming the head of one in a car door. Ferman quotes the film's director Richard Donner as saying this "improved the film", because it gave the hero a chance to grieve.

I had several spats with Ferman before I finally left. They began within weeks of joining the board.

The first bout was provoked by Kathryn Bigelow's Strange Days, a futuristic action thriller that explores voyeurism and technology. Ferman wanted to cut the "forcible exposure of breasts" in the scene in which a young woman, Iris, is murdered.

The scene is shot from the killer's point of view and played back on virtual reality technology by the hero, Lennie (Ralph Fiennes). I found it a brash but interesting film, and the scene in question was thematically crucial.

Blood on breasts was an absolute no-no, and any scene involving bodice ripping was liable to cuts. I was outraged by the term 'Peter Meter', a measure of the potential for a rape scene to arouse. Intelligent interpretation could be overridden by the biological assumptions of the chief censor. The audience could not be credited with complex responses.

The cuts were implemented.

Ferman claimed needle penetration was a turn-on for potential drug addicts. Consequently he reframed the shooting-up scene in Pulp Fiction for video. The evidence for this was anecdotal. We cut instructional detail of hard drug use. Shots of heroin preparation were cut from Trainspotting on video, and from Andy Warhol's Trash. This seemed ludicrous, mechanistic, irrelevant. Surely there are more direct ways to learn about drugs than watching a film? I may be wrong; representation may be crucial to latent drug users. But I never saw any relevant research.

The serpentine weekly examiner's meeting clarified cuts and categories and discussed policy. We rarely arrived at solid conclusions. Contentious titles were left on hold and slipped into classification purgatory. Stuffed in drawers, discreet words to the distributor behind closed doors, letters on file implying unrecorded intervention. Decisions seemed often to be made elsewhere.

The regime was wholly idiosyncratic. The specific censorship vocabulary, the policies, the peculiar working practices, were all Ferman's. Logic and argument were subject to the whim of the director, who regularly overturned decisions. When Whittam Smith was appointed Ferman was slow to turn his policies into a code of practice, for which he could be held to account.

Ferman saw himself as a mentor to the examiners. He would announce the "truth" of a film, a definitive interpretation. He congratulated himself on his Leavisite training, and wanted linear narrative and clear morality. Michael Hanneke's Funny Games was "unremitting sadism". A treatise on "cool violence" waylaid debate on Dobermann. Films of the nineties, he emoted, such as Pulp Fiction and Natural Born Killers, promoted "cool violence" but were underpinned by moral intentions. Dobermann, by contrast, was irredeemable. This was it. The truth. It should be banned. Like a tyrannosaurus, he would only notice if you strayed directly into the sight line of his hobby-horses. And yet despite his flaws he loved film, and was committed to the job.

What does the future hold? Jack Straw's intervention in the appointment of Andreas Whittam Smith does not bode well. Whittam Smith lacks Ferman's film literacy. During a screening of Dobermann he asked what LS (long shot) and postmodernism meant. Yet he overruled Ferman and passed it as cert 18 uncut. He has banned other marginal works, and remains immovable on porn.

Robin Duval, Ferman's successor, a career regulator from the ITC, may or may not meet the challenge of rethinking regulation in a digital age. He has already voiced concerns about action page 5

Day in the life of a censor



10am Start viewing. Breakfast of hard porn: Pornutopia. Great title, shame about the movie. Too many erections for our liking. We cut it down to fellatio and masturbation, and pass it R18 for licensed sex shops only.

11.30am Five minutes to make coffee and go to the loo. No time for a break.

11.35am Back to New Talent Video Special: Megazine porn. "Girls who strip for the very first time wearing their Marks & Spencer knickers." About 20 minutes. Make a note never to shop at M&S again. Top-shelf newsagents or cable telly stuff. Easy deletion — cut out inner labia.



12 noon Teletubbies — Uh-Oh! Messes & Muddles, self-through video. Passed U. Welcome light relief from the porn. Po is bending over for a second, but we let it pass.

1pm Lunch hour. Actually lunch 45 mins. The porn's set us behind schedule.

1.45pm Mortal Kombat: Annihilation, the video of the film. The film was cut for 12, removing the neck break. We think 15 is a more suitable category — plotless with frequent bouts of violence. Does the fact that it's a fantasy based on a computer game rather than the real thing make a difference? Beginning of the daily headache, eyes are dry, fidgety, and my joints are beginning to ache. The debate goes on and on and on — it's passed on to a further team of examiners and ultimately to Ferman. In the end, three months later, the back break, neck break and a kick to the head are all cut and it was passed for 15.

3.30pm The Simpsons: Marge Vs The Monorail. Compilation tape. Language, sexual references pass it at PG. Love it. Highlight of the day, a genuine laugh to take us through to 4.30. Shame about the headache.

4.30pm-6pm Write report. It's been a run-of-the-mill day. One line on Teletubbies, a half page on porn, a paragraph on Simpsons, big report on Mortal Kombat. After three paragraphs I decide I've only got a couple of brain cells left. I can't string a sentence together, and this needs thought. Time to go home.

The Guardian Friday November 20 1998

Jennifer Lopez was the first Latin American to earn $1 million a movie. But then, she tells **Sarah Gristwood**, she's no soft touch and we've come a long way since Raquel Welch

Mouth of the border

It's not suprising that Jennifer Lopez doesn't like the press. When writing about her, journalists always focus on one of three points. First off, her price-tag: the recent US TV movie Selena made her the first Latin American actress to get $1 million for a picture. Secondly, the perfection of her posterior (big — but beautiful seems to be the idea; the Sunday Times Style section wrote a feature about it). And, thirdly, the poison of her tongue: in an interview in Movieline earlier this year, she made some decidedly candid comments about other stars.

Gwyneth Paltrow? "Some people get hot by association." Cameron Diaz? "A lucky model who was given a lot of opportunities." Lopez has apologised to her fellow actors. But the harm is done.



Of course there's nothing we love better than a feud over here, but until now, that's virtually all we've heard of her. Selena, the biopic of a Latin American music star gunned down four years ago by the president of her own fan club, was hardly seen in Europe. Here, it's Lopez's part in Steven Soderbergh's Out Of Sight that has "breakthrough role" written all over it.

An Elmore Leonard crime caper widely hailed in the States as this summer's hippest movie, it gains from Lopez's chemistry with co-star George Clooney. And gives her, in return, a much more pro-active role than any female sidekick usually gets in an action story. Plus two million dollars, reputedly.

Lopez is sprawled over a hotel sofa in classic bad-girl pose, chewing gum, with one fist clenched. She doesn't look like anyone's arm candy. "I don't think of them as strong women," she says of the roles she tends to play. "I like characters that are really part of the story as opposed to window dressing — but I think the interesting thing is that they are real people. Nobody walks around being strong all the time."

Well, maybe she does. Her success story, she says, could be defined as much in terms of Rocky as Cinderella. Screw the glass slipper, this woman's a worker ("I don't sleep") and a fighter ("You have to get up there and say, 'You like me?' And if they say, 'No,' it's like, 'OK. Screw you! Next?'"). But you can see why men drool. Lopez has four-inch silver heels and a red dress that clings without visible means of support to a lot of luminous gold skin, a long bell of hair the colour of marrons glacés. As she puts it: "If they say hot and steamy, I can't hate them for that, can I?"

In Out Of Sight, she plays a Federal Marshall ("I got really good at the guns"), reluctantly in love with Clooney's escaped convict and standing up to the moral dilemma spunkily. A career girl's gotta do what a career girl's gotta do.

Roger Ebert was only one American critic who likened the partnership of Clooney and Lopez to Bogart and Bacall — the couple start out with an inadvertent clinch that turns a car boot into a romantic location. "An actress who can be convincingly tough and devastatingly erotic," Kenneth Turan wrote of her in the Los Angeles Times.

When asked why she wanted to get into movies, Lopez talks about watching Terminator 2 as a teenager. But she also cites Ava Gardner or fellow Latina Rita Hayworth, Monroe and Bette Midler.

'You have to get up and say, "You like me?" And if they don't, it's like, Screw you!'

And, like Midler, she has one foot in the record business. Since the break-up of her year-long marriage to a Cuban model-come-waiter she met in Miami, her name has been linked with Tommy Mottola — Mariah Carey's ex-husband and head of Sony Music — and rapper Sean "Puff Daddy" Coombs.

She has her own album out next year, Gypsy, of which she says, "My music is kind of a hybrid — the music somebody like me would like, who grew up in the Bronx, of Latin (Puerto Rican) descent but a very American family. I have a lot of street smarts because of the neighbourhood I grew up in."

As the daughter of a businessman and a teacher, her early life was comparatively sheltered. "It wasn't so much a bad neighbourhood as one where you had to be careful. And the sensibilities you grow up with in a city teach you to be more alert, aware, more careful." This may be why she plays tough so successfully, why she can cut such a swathe through the film industry.

Lopez started out as one of the dancers on the American TV show In Living Color — choreographed by Rosie Perez. But Perez — like Salma Hayek and any of the other actresses who prompt journalists to ask about a Latina new wave — has been out-paced by Lopez today.

Her films, if not her co-stars, have often been undistinguished. After a debut in Mi Familia, she was the undercover cop opposite Wesley Snipes and Woody Harrelson in Money Train, and Jack Nicholson's mistress in Blood And Wine. She was excellently reviewed in Oliver Stone's U-Turn, and one of the more acceptable faces of Coppola's frightful Jack, the voice of Azteca, the worker ant in Antz, and the snake-wrestling scientist in Anaconda. But her reception for Out Of Sight has been extraordinary.

Lopez reacts warily to questions that imply she's the spearhead for a wave of Latin actresses. On one hand, Hollywood has come a long way since Rita Hayworth and Raquel Welch had to change their names from Margarita Cansino and Raquel Tejada respectively. On the other, that should make race irrelevant. Lopez makes a grimace when asked about it: "People get hung up on that stuff, don't they?

"It's a thing Steven [Soderbergh] and I had talked about. He just saw me and he thought I was the best person for the role. I said I didn't think there should be any jokes about cheeky chica or anything referring to the fact that I'm Latin. That's not important for this movie. And he said, 'I absolutely agree.'

"Hollywood is being more open-minded about casting. I'm perceived as an actress who is Latin — not a Latin actress as in one who just does Latin roles. I'm considered for roles that are not Latin, and that's been a big step in the right direction for me. It's something that I've always worked towards, and been conscious of from the beginning of my career. Faced with two or three projects, I'd often do something that wasn't so stereotypical."

She says her million-dollar price tag is a good thing. "I don't think it's a bad thing. I want to make as much as, or more than, Demi Moore when it's my time.

"I don't think that's so much success. People make so much more money than that," she adds, at risk of sounding like Linda Evangelista saying she wouldn't get out of bed for less than $10,000 a day.

"It was a big thing because Latin actresses until that point were not in any sort of seven-figure bracket. It was a big thing for our community because now it just kicks open the door for everybody else. In that realm, I'm really proud of it." And she should be.

Out Of Sight opens on November 27.

The Latina line

RITA HAYWORTH *(near right)* Born Margarita Carmen Cansino, 1918, in Brooklyn to a Ziegfeld Follies girl and a Spanish-born dancer. By the age of 13, she was dancing in Mexican nightclubs, and began her film career as Rita Cansino. Her first husband (out of five, including Orson Welles and Prince Aly Khan) was the promoter Edward Judson who changed her name and dyed her hair until she became the flame-haired temptress of Gilda and The Lady From Shanghai.

RITA MORENO Born Rosita Dolores Alverio in Puerto Rico, 1932, she grew up in New York. A Broadway star as well as Anita in West Side Story, she was the first woman to win all four top showbiz awards — Oscar, Tony, Grammy and two Emmys. She said of casting: "It took me six years of therapy to get my 'ethnic' problems untangled."

RAQUEL WELCH Born Raquel Tejada, 1940, in Chicago to a Bolivian-born engineer and a mother of English stock. Her films never matched the degree of her fame, which rested solidly on her all-American sexuality.



ROSIE PEREZ *(right)* Of Puerto Rican decent, Perez was born in Brooklyn. She was set to be a marine biologist until a scout spotted her dancing in a club. Her first film break came when Spike Lee cast her as the tough-talking teenage mother in Do The Right Thing. After such movies as White Men Can't Jump and Fearless, she opens in January in the title role of Perdita Durango, the Spanish-made sequel to Wild At Heart.

SALMA HAYEK Born in south-east Mexico, Hayek was the most famous soap star in Central America, playing the title role in Theresa. She made a successful transition to the big screen, courtesy of her mentor Robert Rodriguez, starring in three of his films — Desperado (opposite Hispanic himbo Antonio Banderas), Roadracers and From Dusk Till Dawn (opposite a giant python — see Lopez and Anaconda). Recent films include Fools Rush In, in which she plays a poor Mexican girl, and 54, the story of the legendary New York nightclub. Rumoured to be playing the lead in a biopic of the artist Frida Kahlo.



CAMERON DIAZ Cinema's current favourite blonde — The Mask, My Best Friend's Wedding, There's Something About Mary — gets her name from her second-generation Cuban-American dad, though her colouring comes from her mother's German and English (and Native American) stock.

JENNIFER ESPOSITO Born in Brooklyn to Puerto Rican parents. She made her name in Spin City and is now at number two in the US with I Still Know what You did Last Summer. She stars in Spike Lee's upcoming The Summer Of Sam.



Jennifer Lopez... her chemistry with George Clooney has been compared with Bogart and Bacall PHOTOGRAPHS: RETNA/NEAL PRESTON/GREG HINSDALE

What the censor saw

page 3 heroes, continuing Ferman's line of attack.

At Whittam Smith's instigation, the BBFC met the public in roadshows around the country. Several months down the line there is still no published report. And how representative is a handful of public meetings, some of which were attended by less than 30 people?

I'm frequently asked if I was affected by the work. Surely, cooped up in a cramped room for five hours a day watching the worst that popular culture can muster makes me a likely candidate for "effects", should they exist?

Well, of course, I went mad. But not because of the material but because of the stifling passivity of watching too much television. And then there was the job itself. Censorship sees deviance wherever it looks, and like a starchy matron, imposes its own morality like an iron corset. It is not a pretty sight. Does the material corrupt? No, but the job does.

In the end, I resigned. The lack of accountability and clear focus, the arbitrary judgments, frustration and loss of integrity helped. But mostly it was the lack of relevance to the real world.

The public may, in theory, support classification, but in practice it makes its own choices; the three-year-old who knows every word of Toy Story, passed PG for mild horror; the eight-year-old who delights in The Full Monty with his family, passed 15 for swearing; the teenager who, as mid-evening viewing, enjoyed This Life, episodes of which were passed 18 on video for drugs. When will we trust adults to choose for themselves? When will we credit children and young people with the ability to watch critically?

The board could be genuinely informative. Instead of pandering to alarmist fears, it could offer a rational voice in the debate. Instead of slavishly responding to a vocal minority it could take note of the vast majority who don't give classification a second thought.

For now, at best, the classification system is a sop to society's conscience, a rough guide to content and at worst it is an oppressive tyrant. Nanny with her must-nots.

education
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